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(54) **STRUCTURAL TANK INTEGRATED INTO AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE CASE**

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H01Q 1/50 (2006.01)
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CPC **H01Q 1/273** (2013.01); **G04G 21/04** (2013.01); **G04R 60/08** (2013.01); **G06F 1/163** (2013.01);
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H01Q 1/273; H01Q 1/36; H01Q 1/48
See application file for complete search history.

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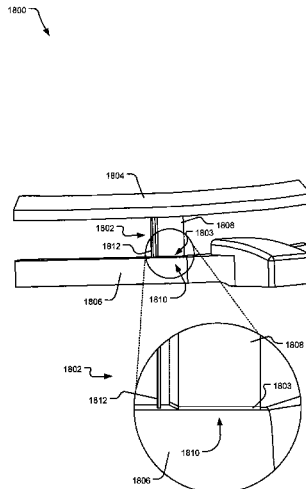
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus is provided with a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter and being positioned opposite the conductive bezel section. The conductive ground plane section is separated from the conductive bezel section by a perimeter gap at the perimeter. A structural tank circuit is integrated with and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap. Another implementation may include a structural capacitor or a structural inductor integrated with and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap.

18 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets



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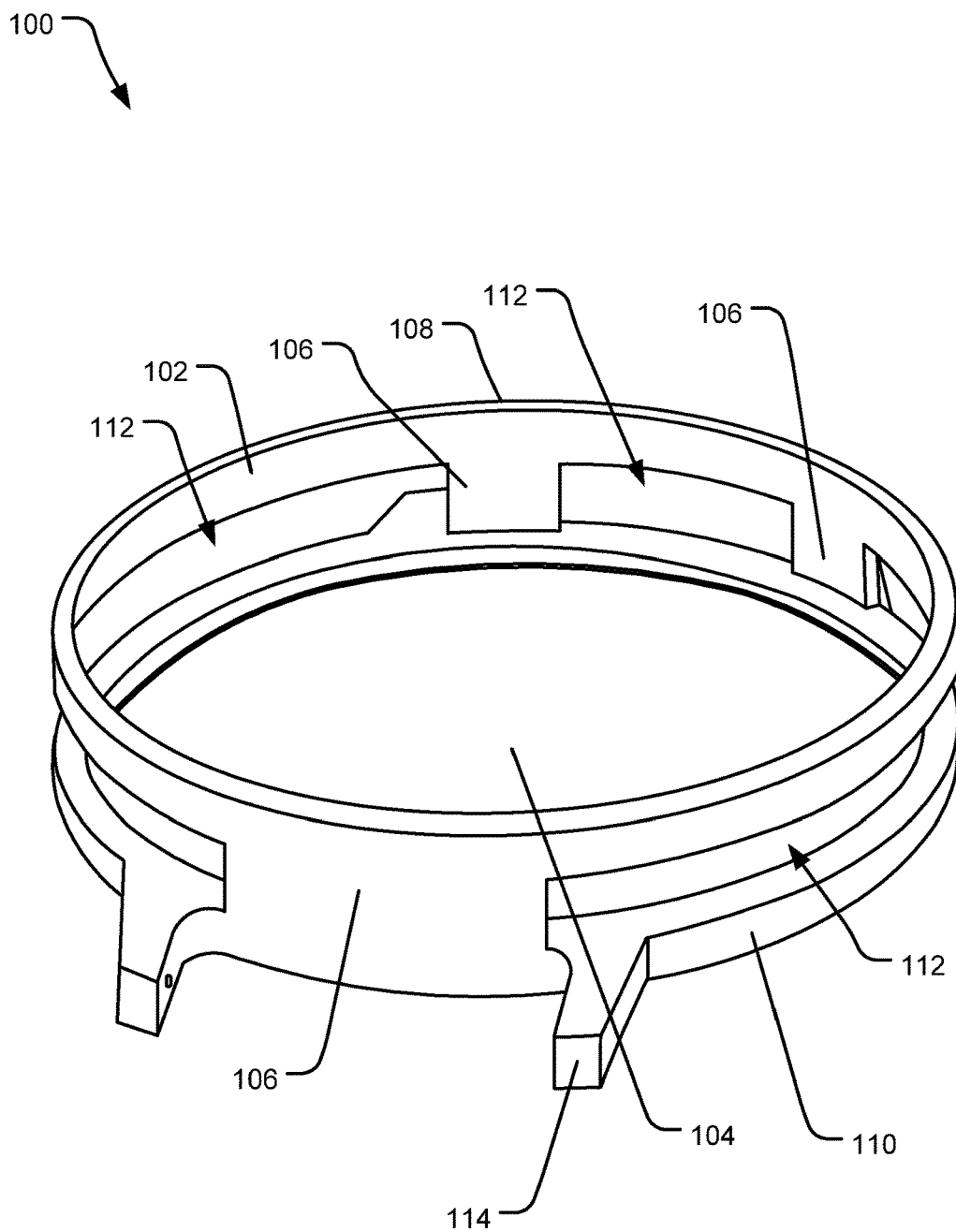


FIG. 1

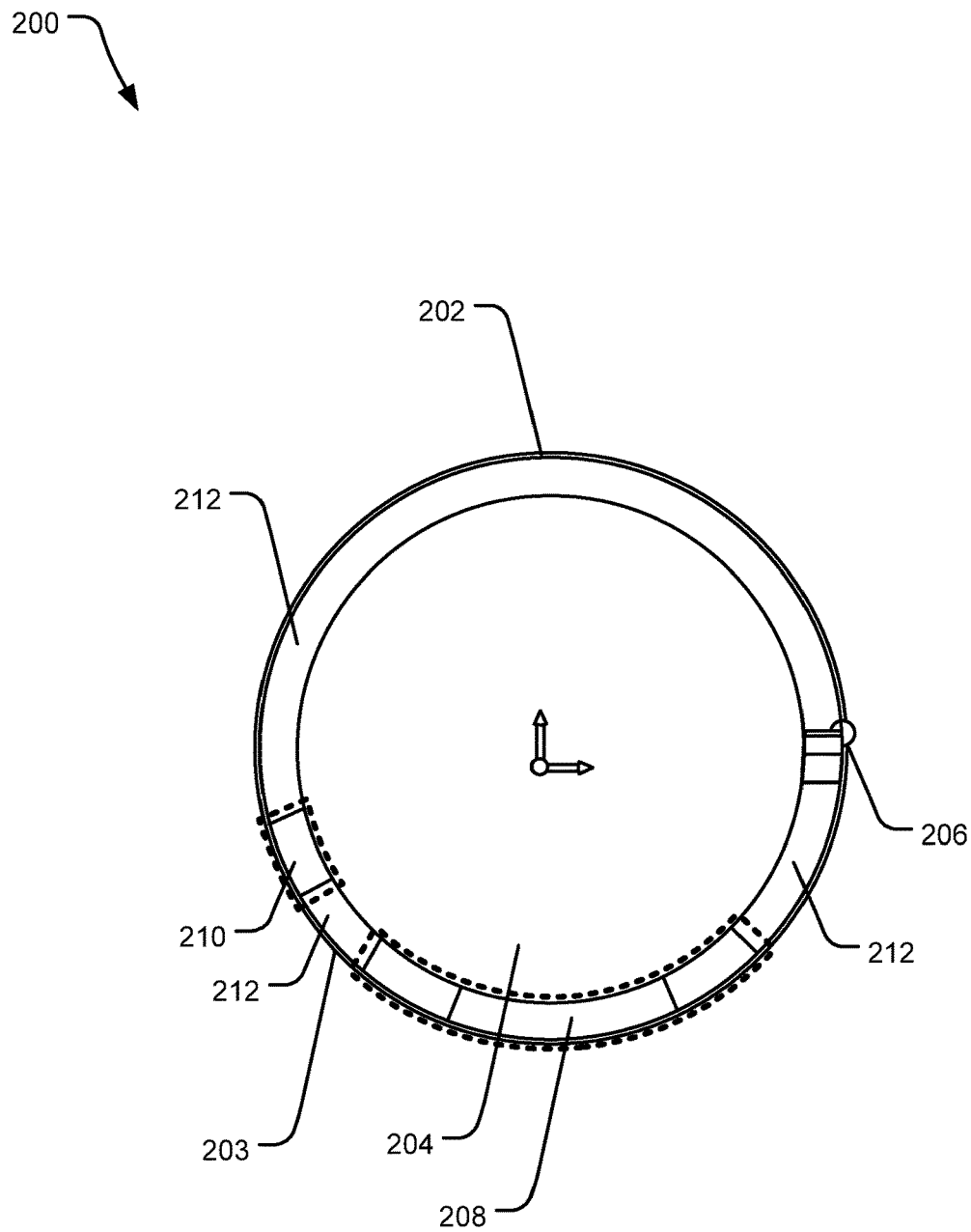


FIG. 2

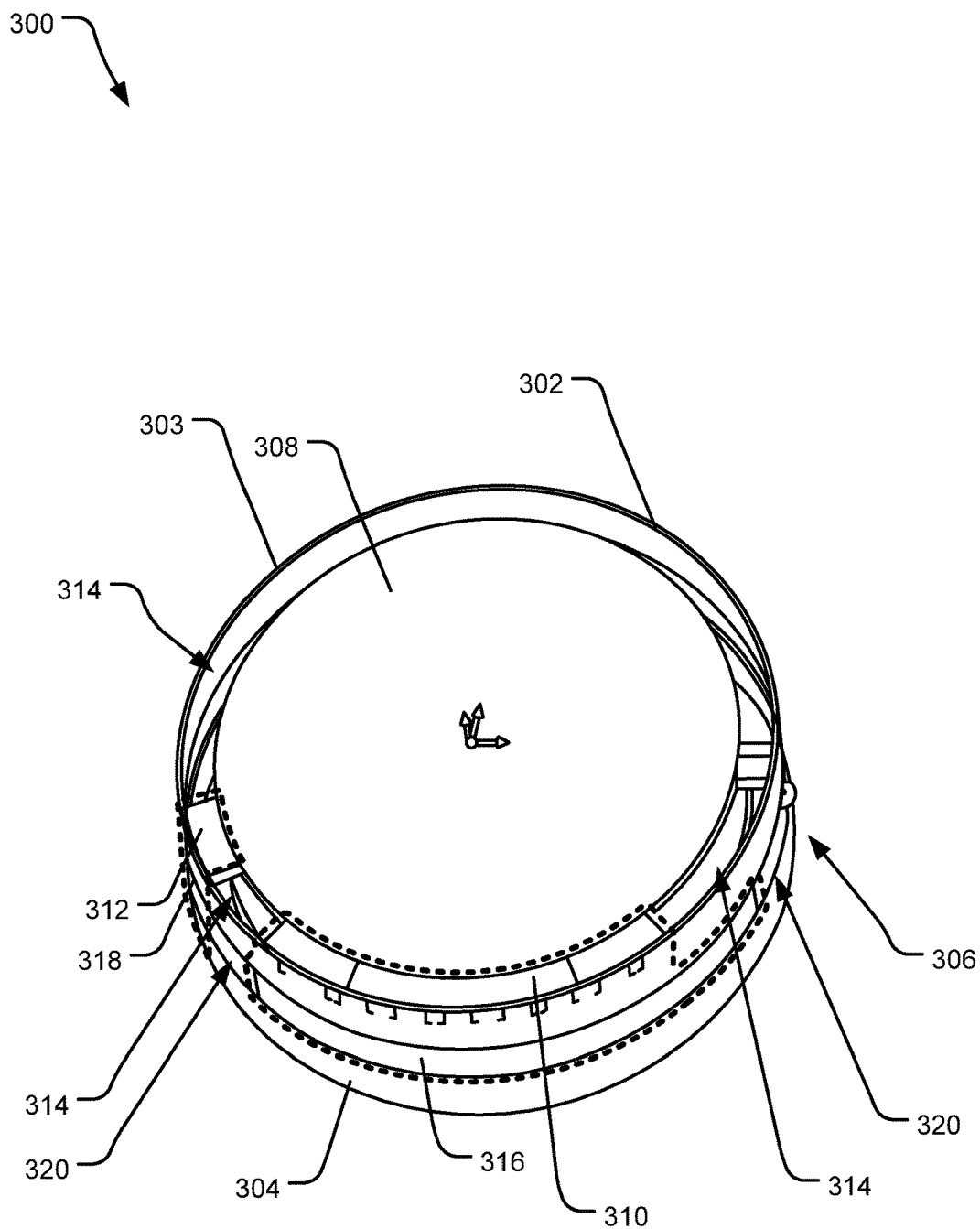


FIG. 3

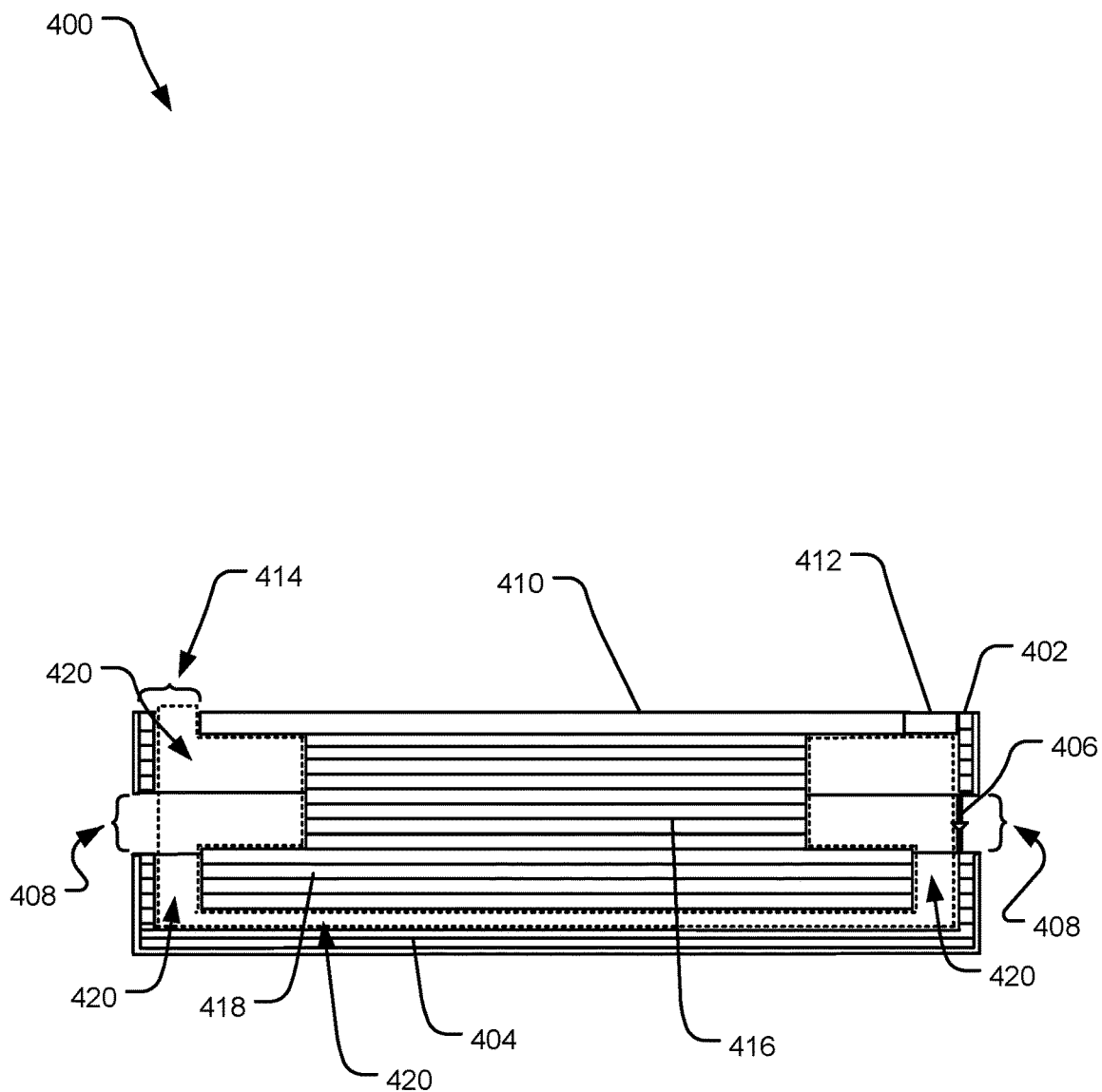


FIG. 4

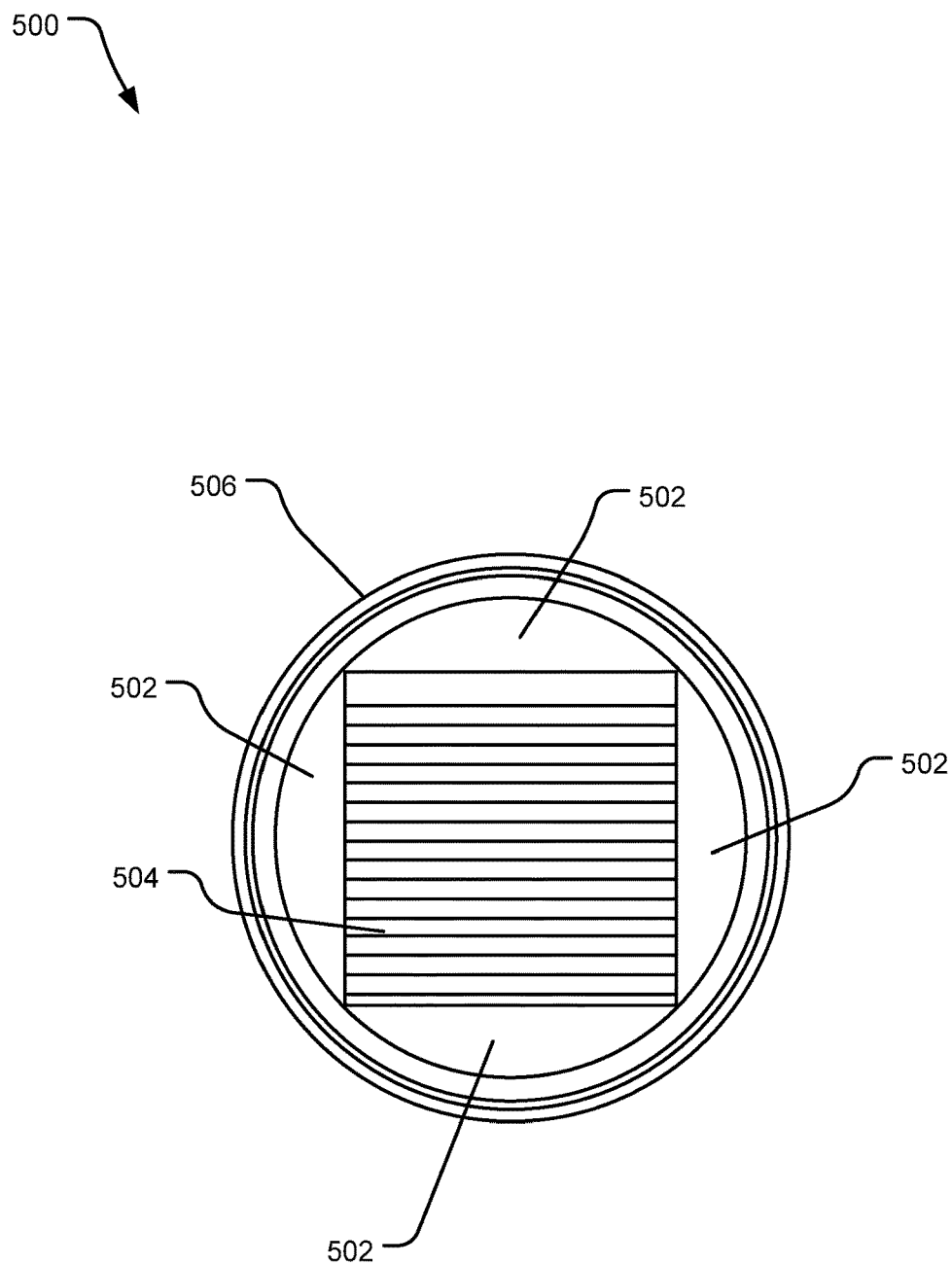


FIG. 5

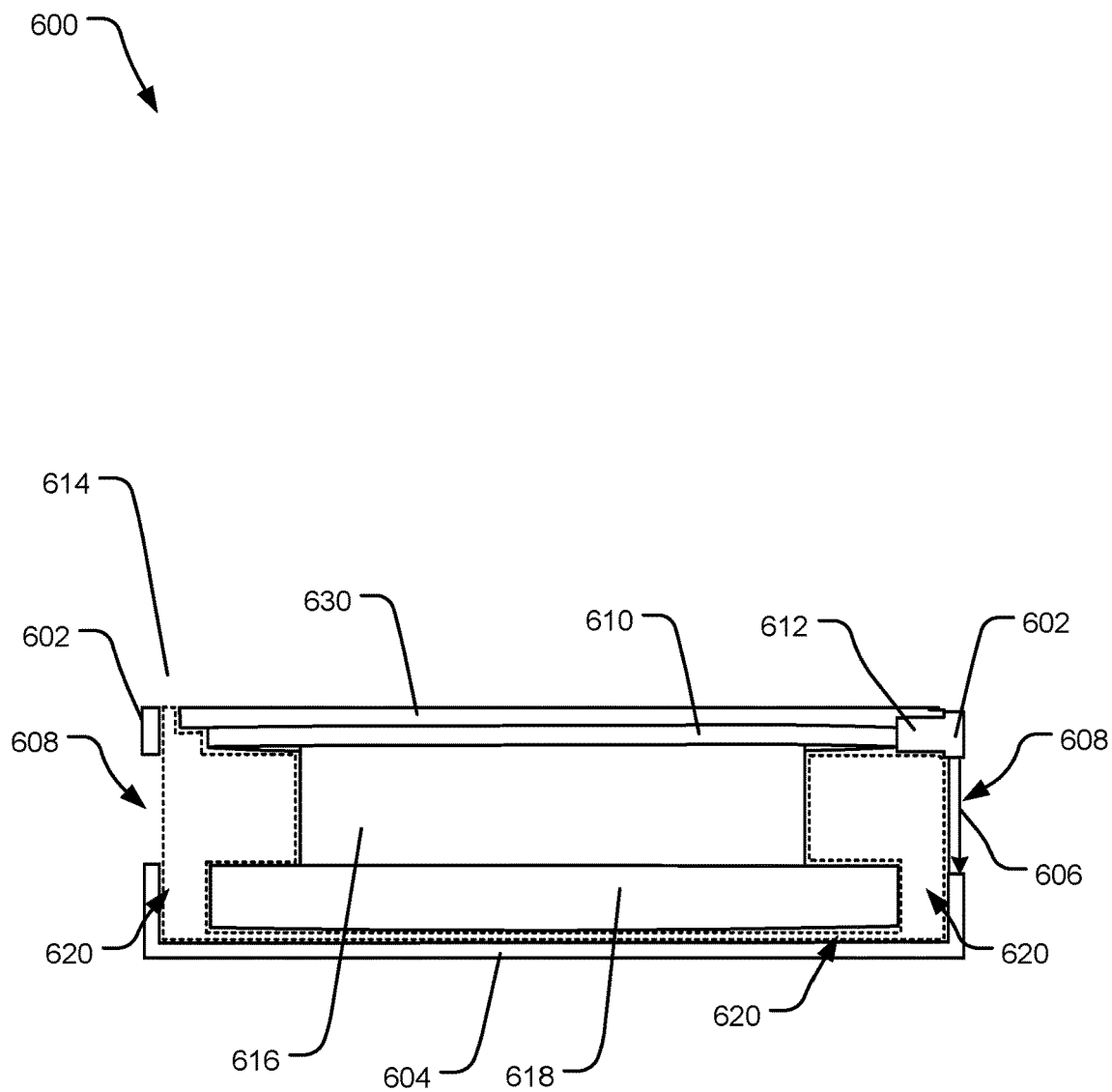


FIG. 6

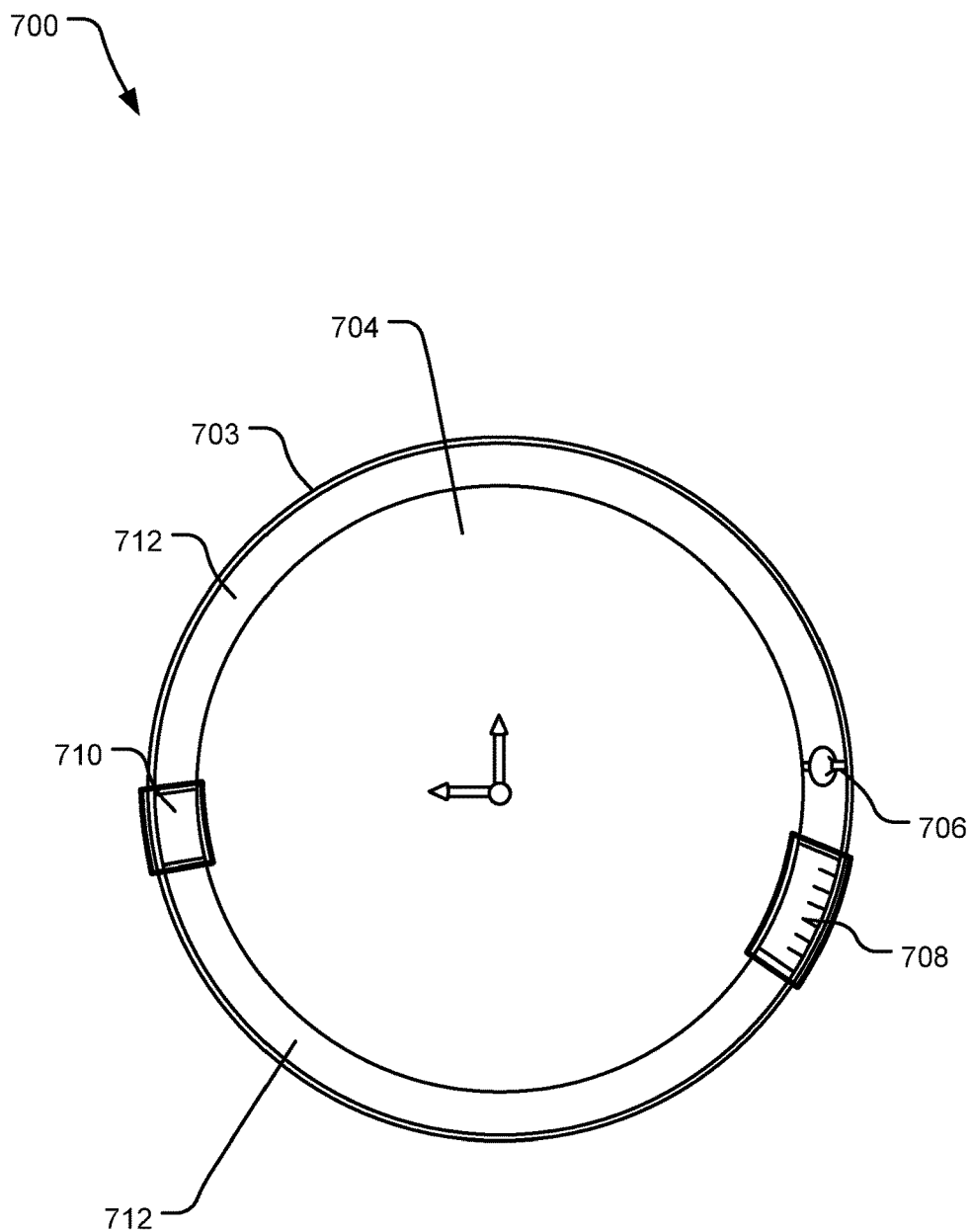


FIG. 7

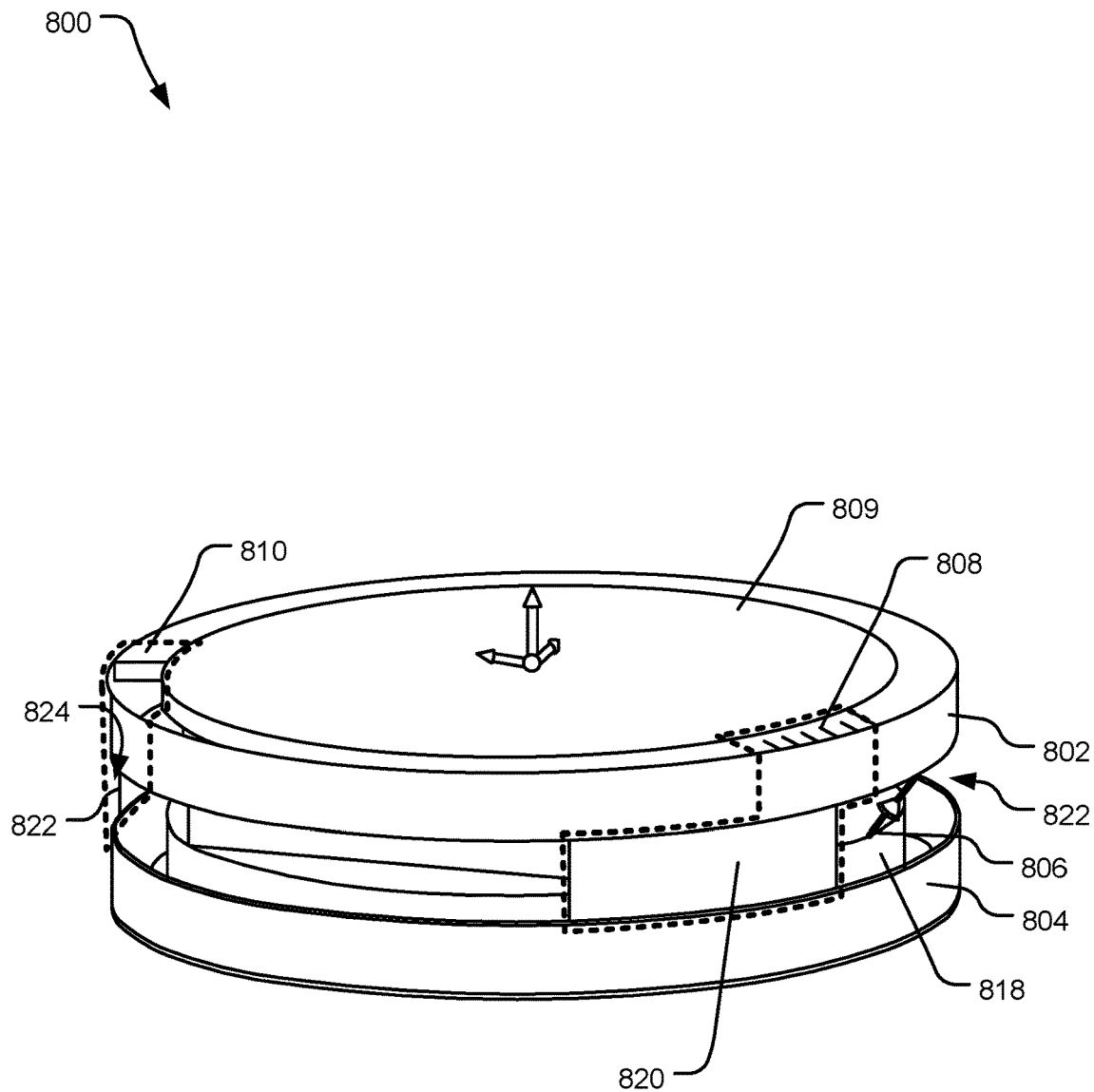


FIG. 8

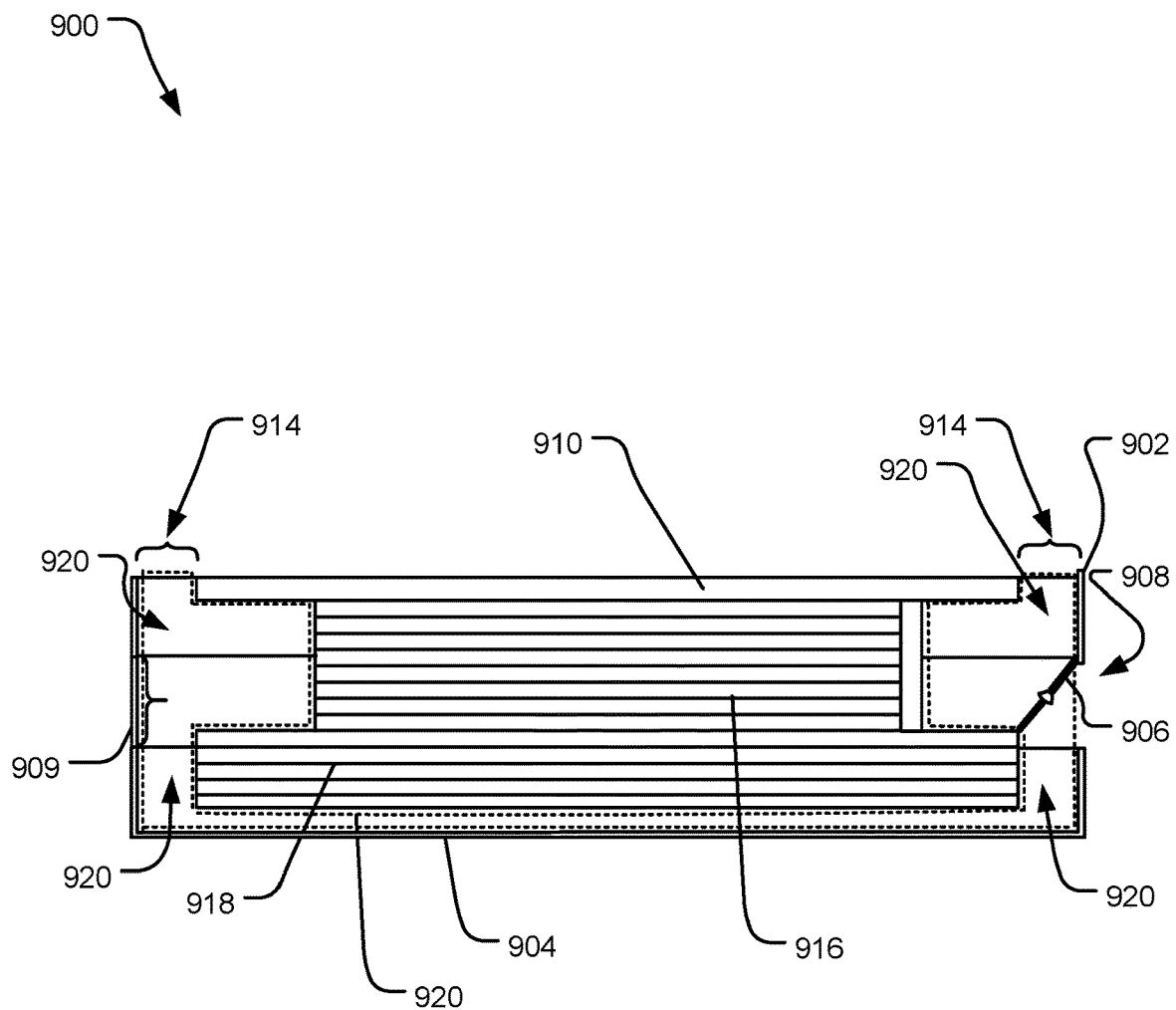


FIG. 9

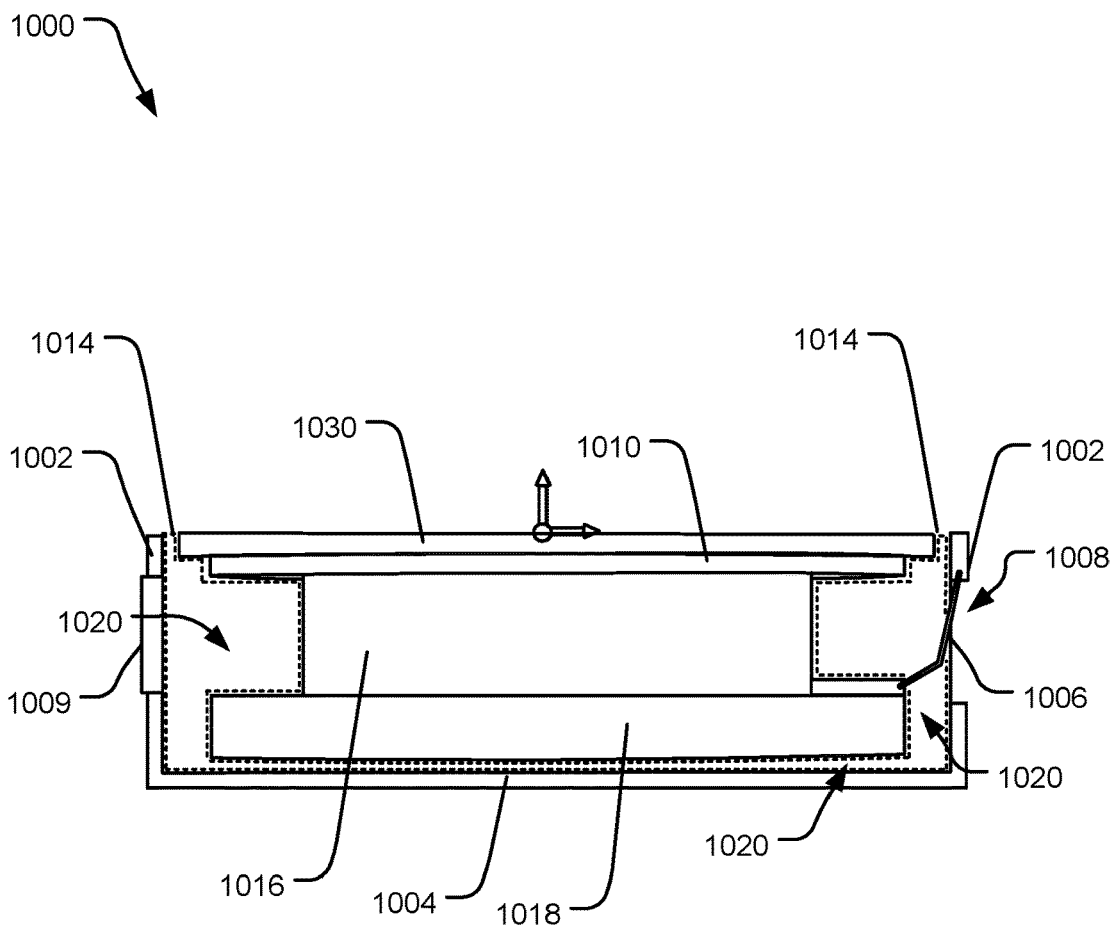


FIG. 10

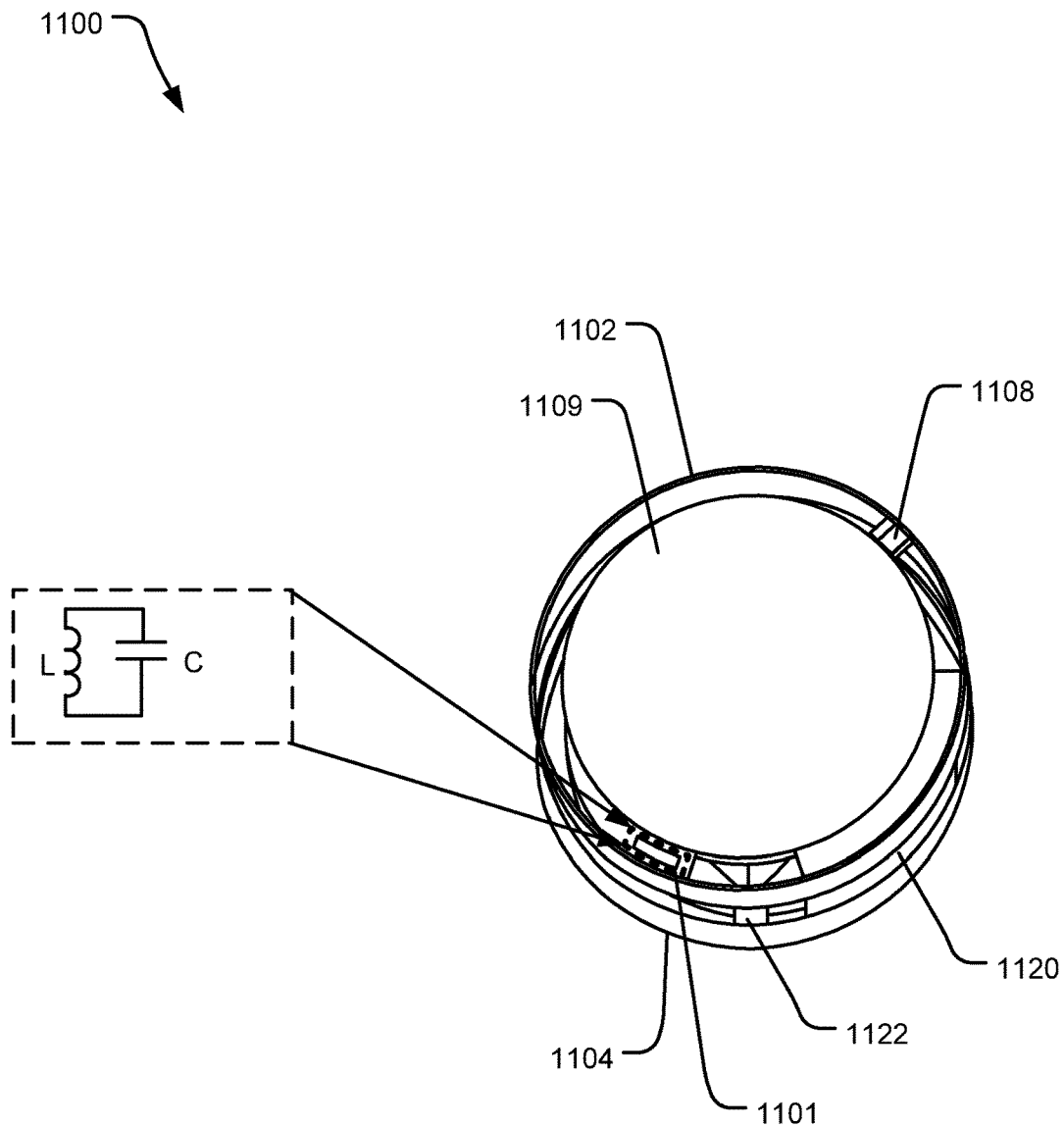


FIG. 11

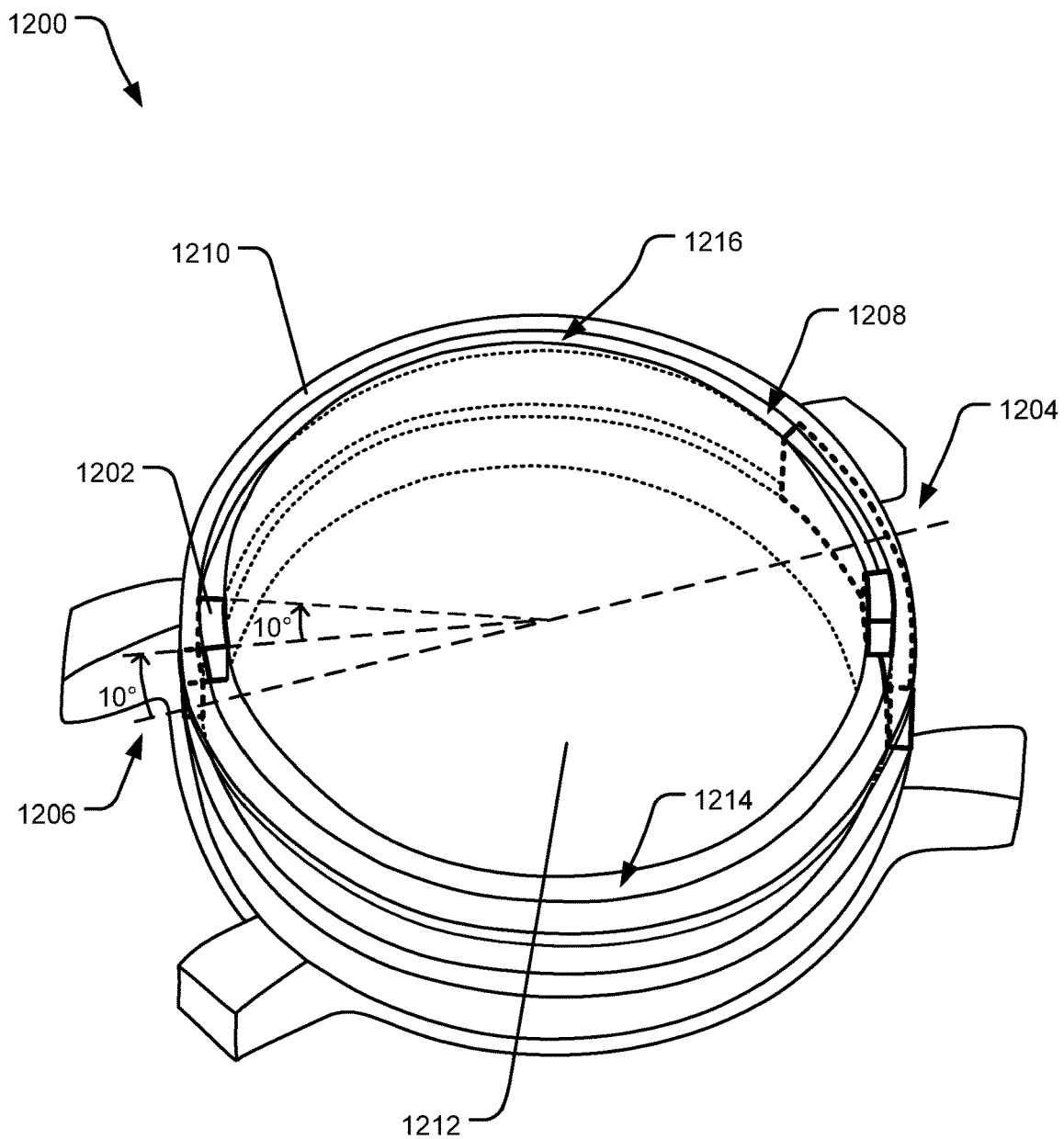


FIG. 12

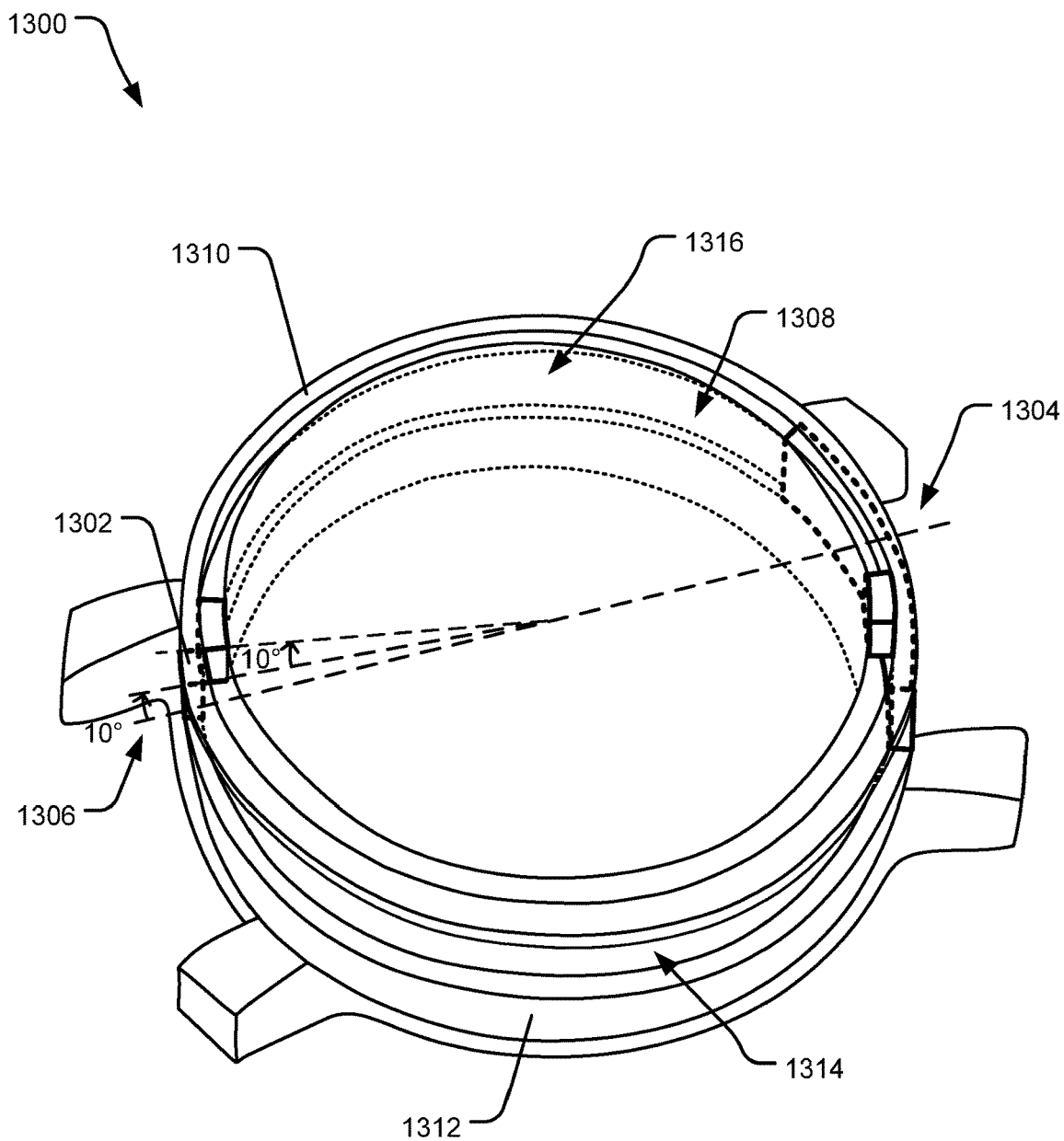


FIG. 13

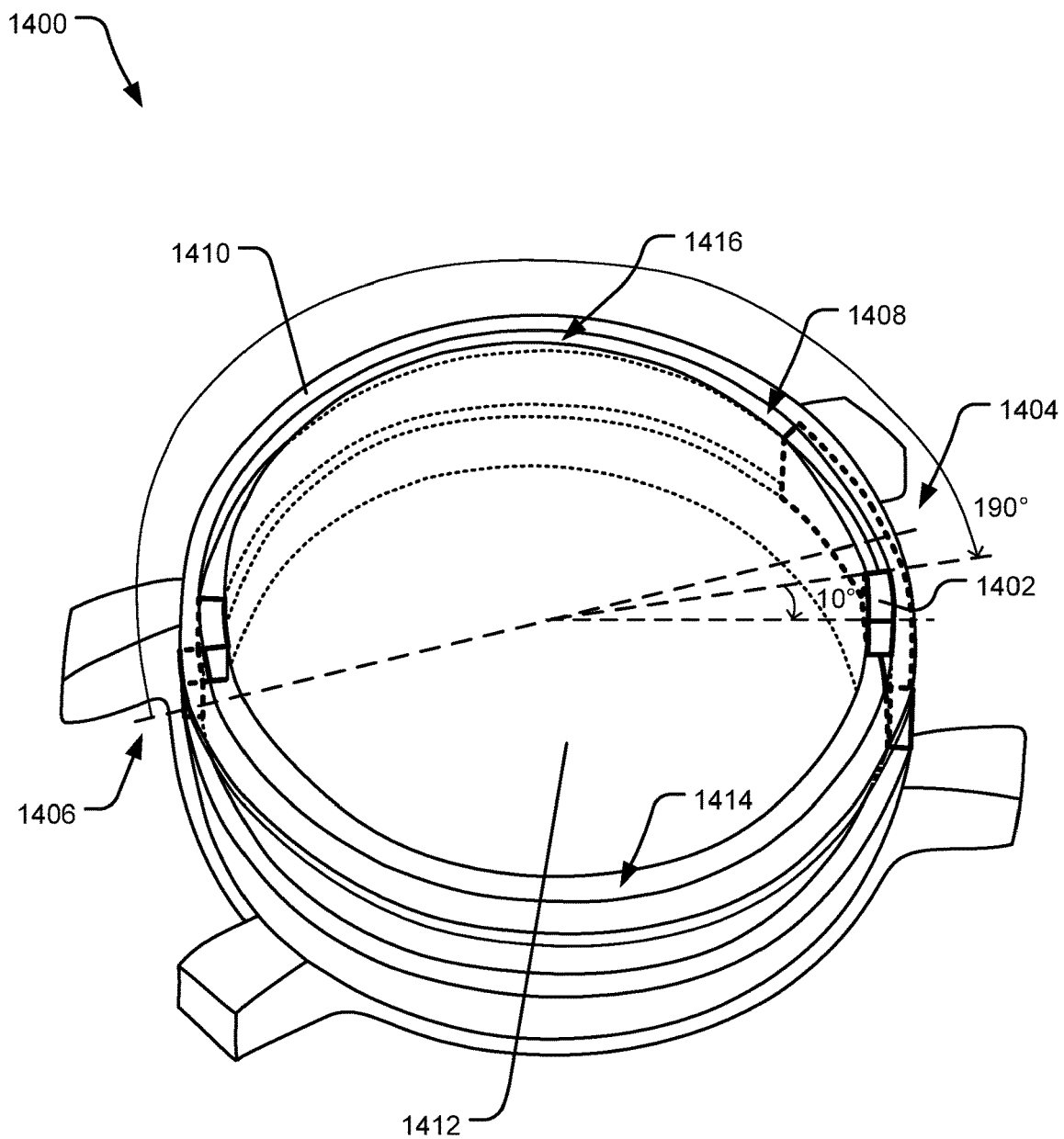


FIG. 14

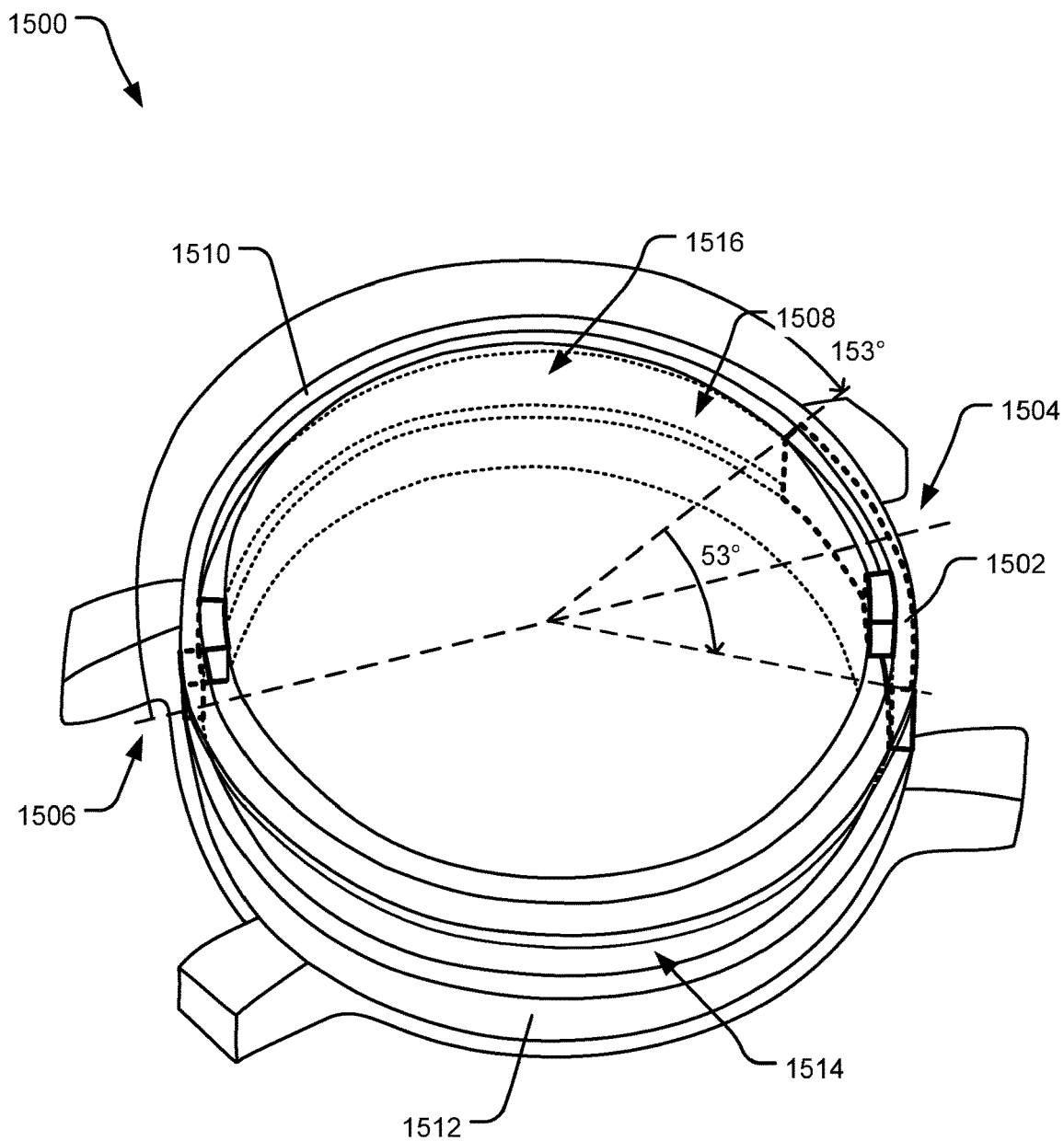


FIG. 15

1600

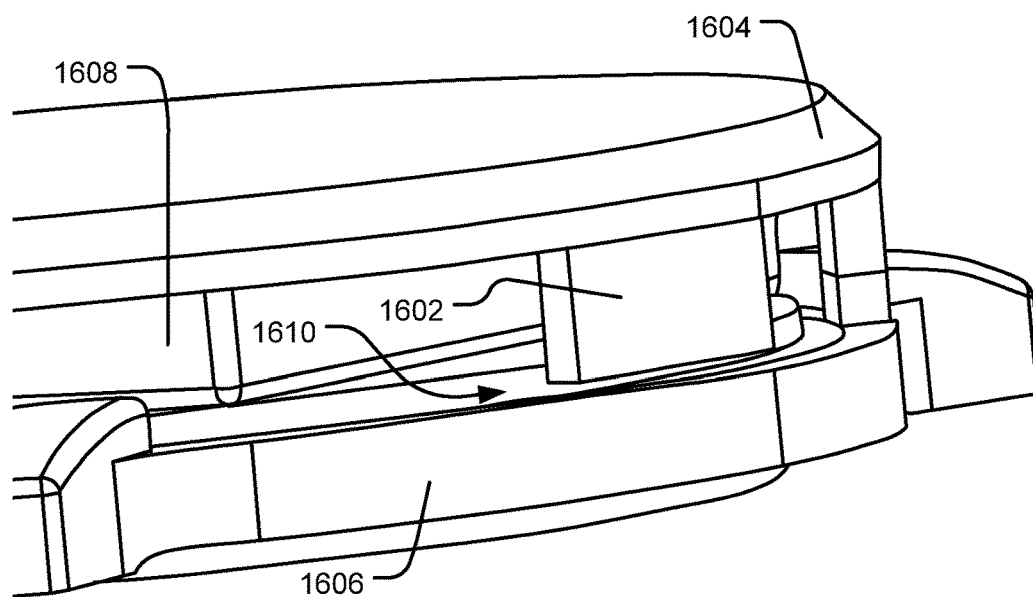



FIG. 16

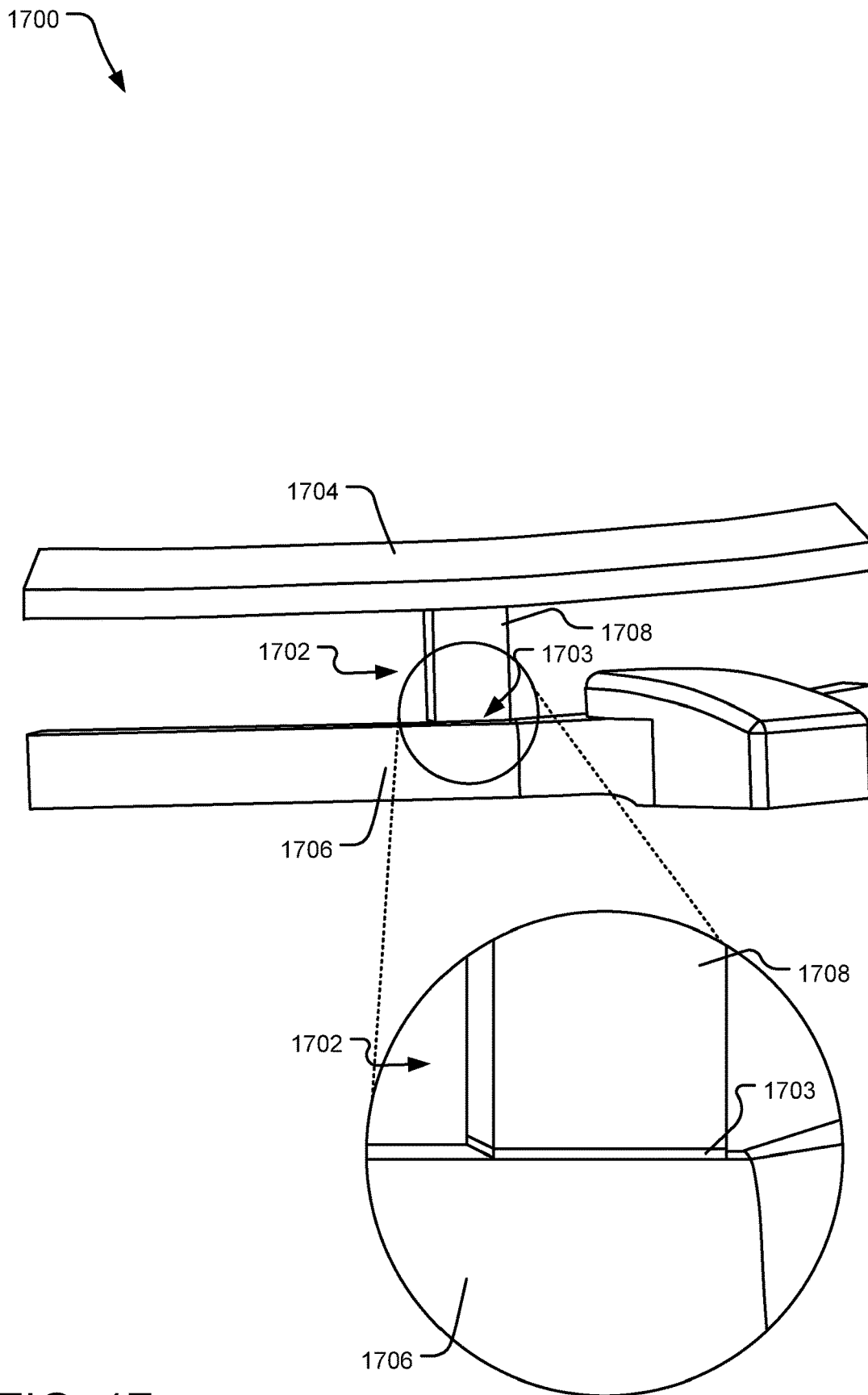


FIG. 17

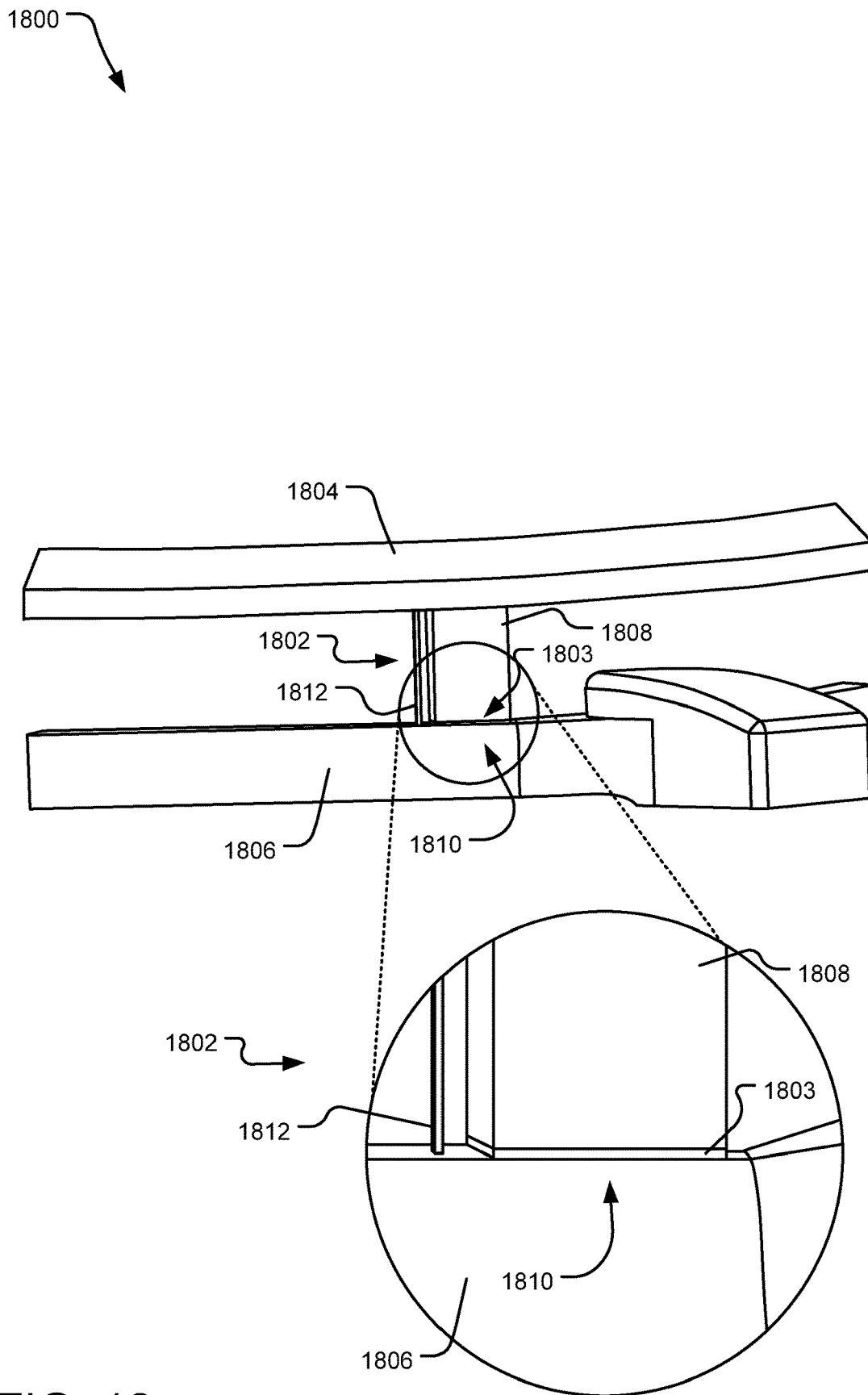


FIG. 18

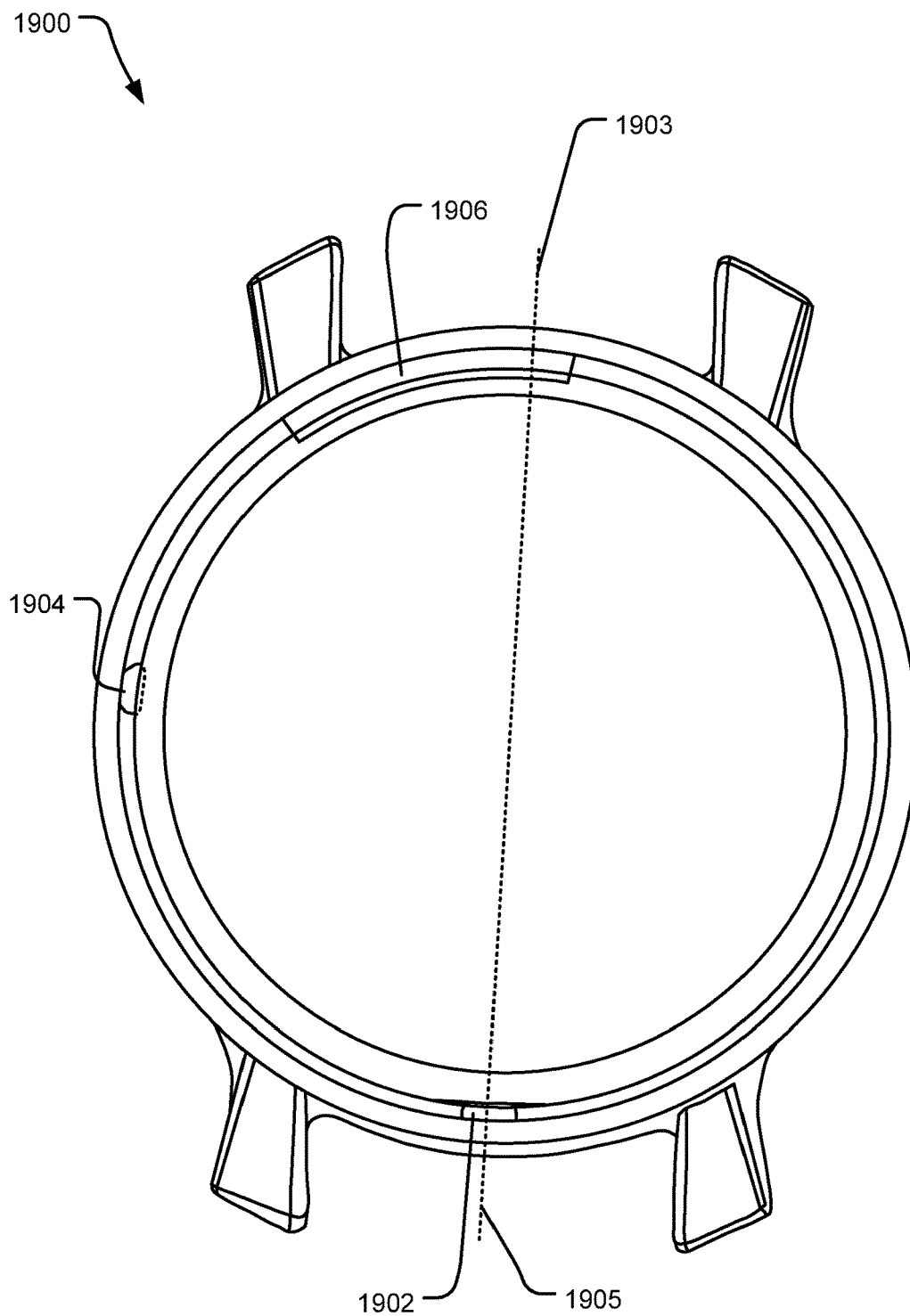


FIG. 19

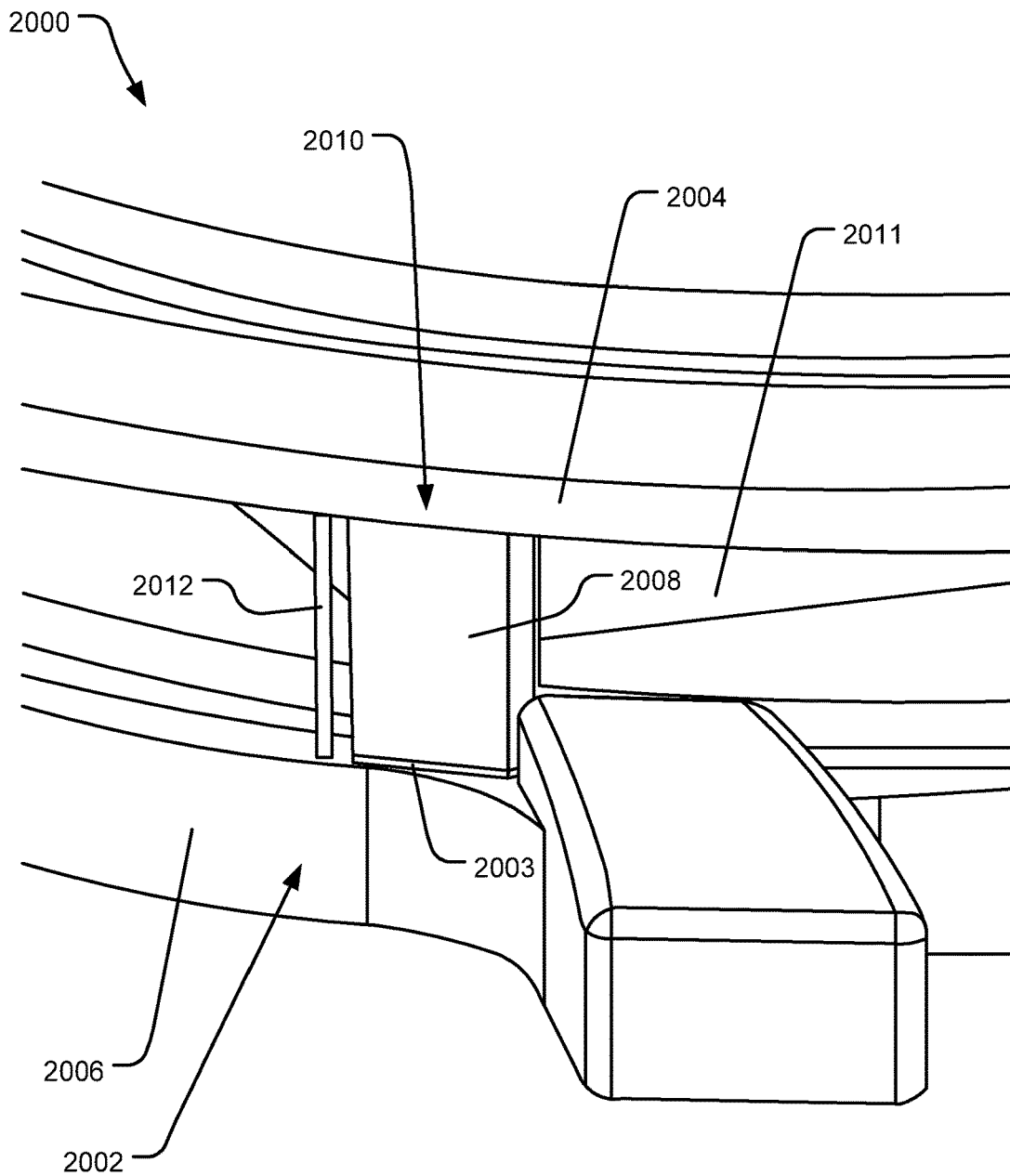


FIG. 20

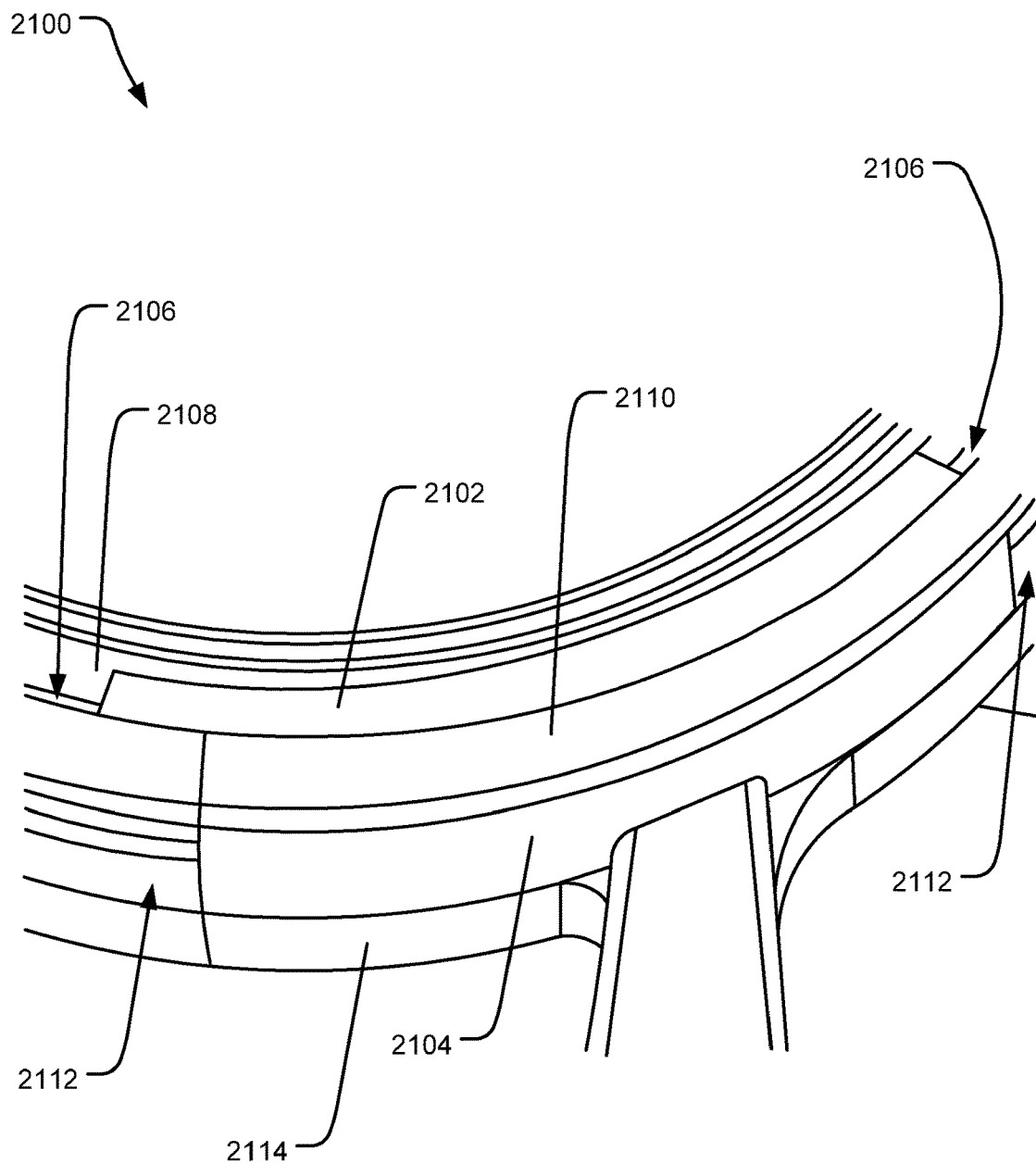


FIG. 21

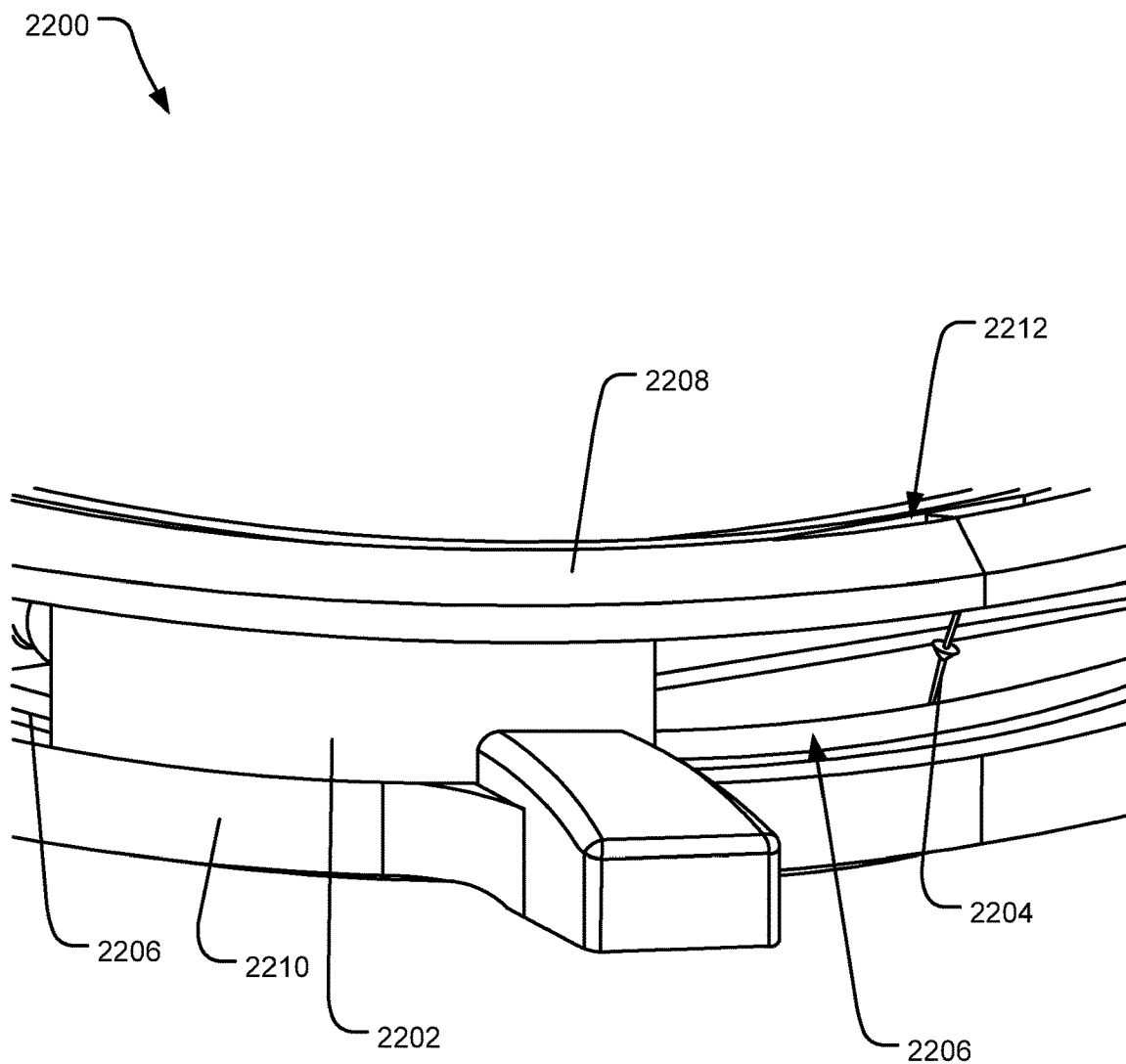


FIG. 22

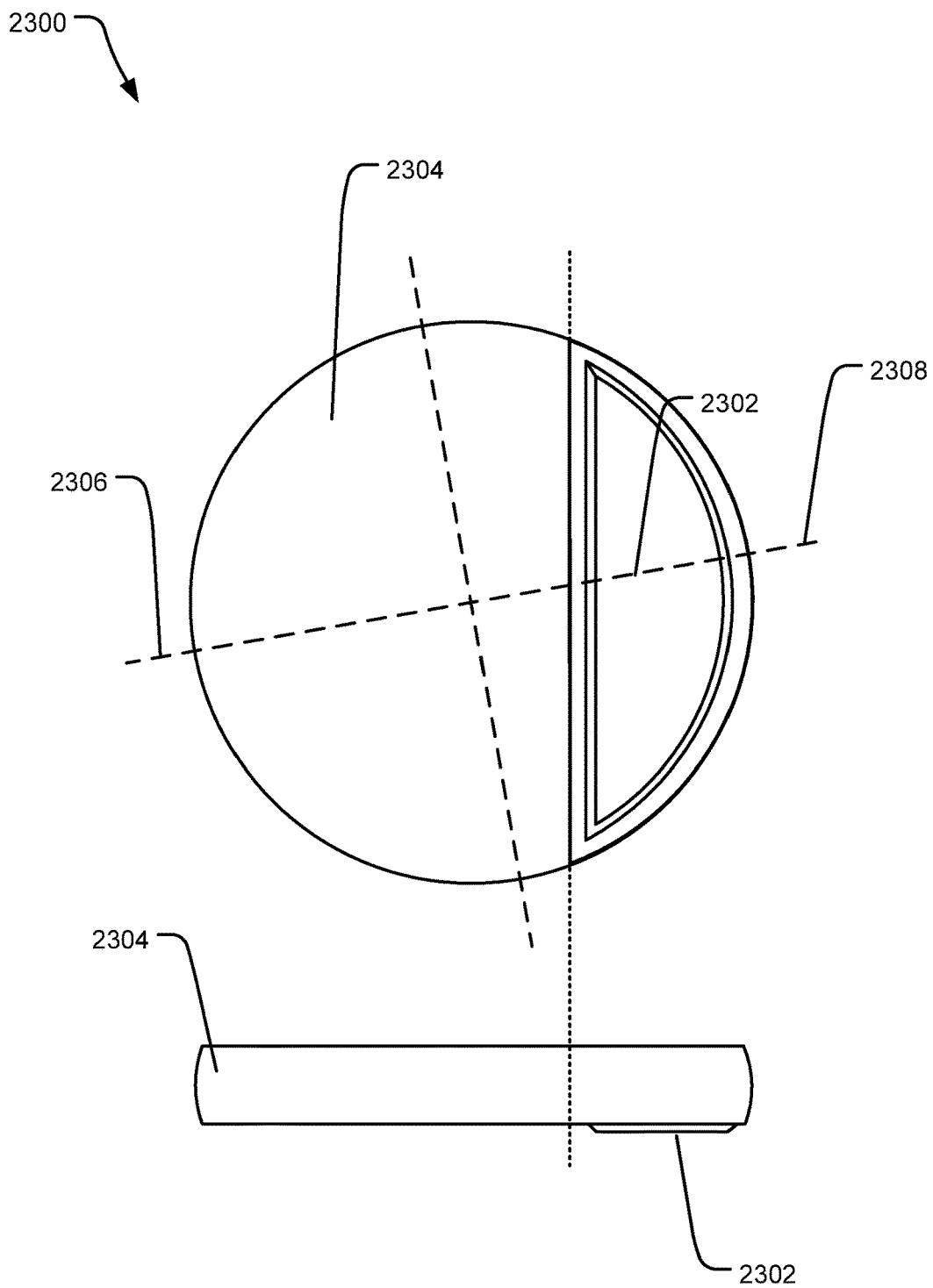


FIG. 23

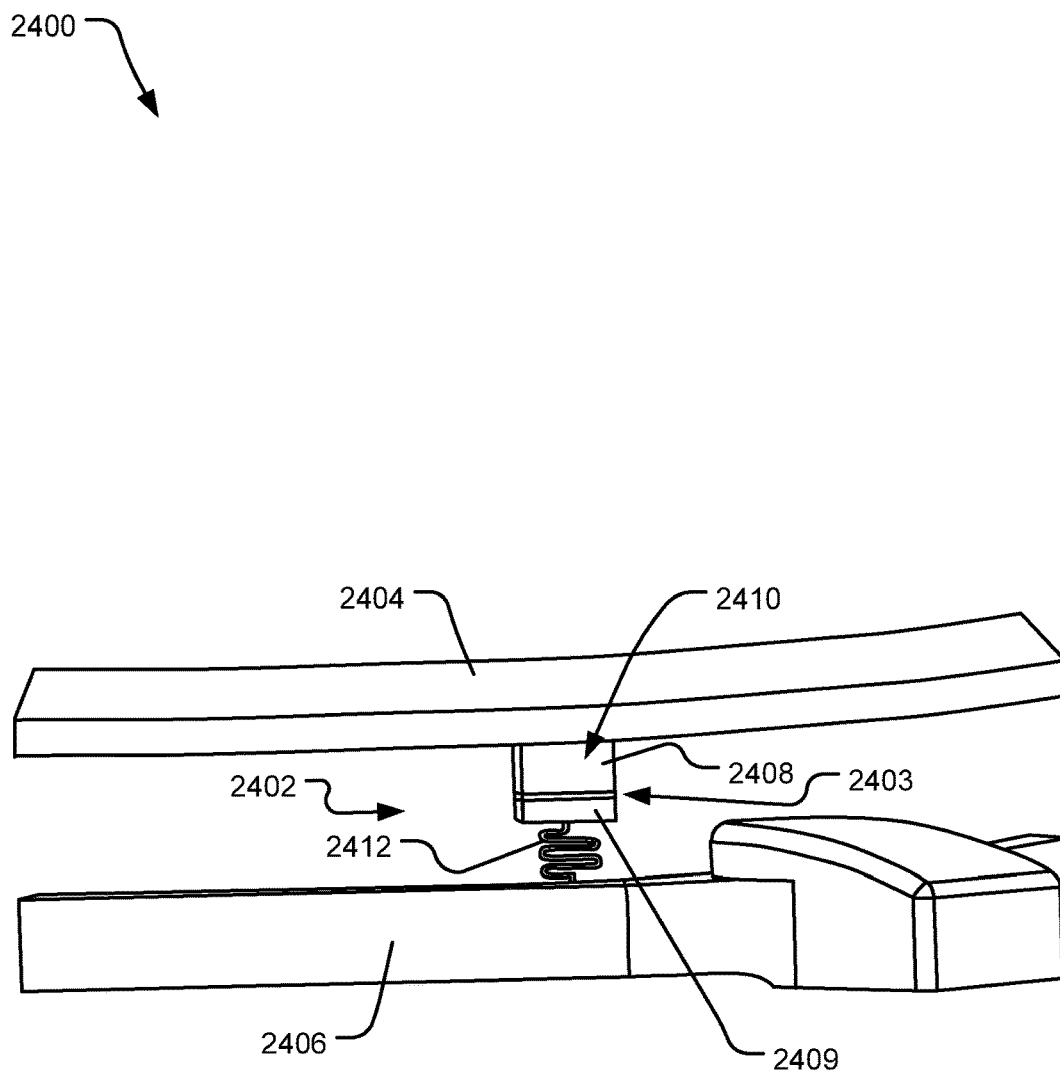


FIG. 24

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STRUCTURAL TANK INTEGRATED INTO AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE CASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/019,692, entitled “Tunable Slot Antenna Integrated into a Resonant Cavity of an Electronic Device Case” and filed on Jul. 1, 2014, which is specifically incorporated by reference herein for all that it discloses and teaches.

The present application is also related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/517,666, entitled “Slot Antenna Integrated into a Resonant Cavity of an Electronic Device Case” and filed concurrently herewith, which is specifically incorporated by reference herein for all that it discloses and teaches.

BACKGROUND

Wearable electronic devices are becoming popular in consumer electronics. Such devices may include one or more antennas designed to operate on a lossy human body. One challenge in the design of antennas for wearable electronic devices is that the antenna efficiency degrades when the antenna is in close proximity to lossy human body tissue.

SUMMARY

An apparatus is provided with a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter and being positioned opposite the conductive bezel section. The conductive ground plane section is separated from the conductive bezel section by a perimeter gap at the perimeter. A structural tank circuit is integrated with and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap. Another implementation may include a structural capacitor or a structural inductor integrated with and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap.

This Summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This Summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

Other implementations are also described and recited herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 2 illustrates a plan view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section of an electronic device case.

FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section of an electronic device case.

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FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section of an electronic device case.

FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional top view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 6 illustrates a schematic side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section of an electronic device case.

FIG. 7 illustrates a plan view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a printed circuit board of an electronic device case.

FIG. 8 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a printed circuit board of an electronic device case.

FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-sectional side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a printed circuit board of an electronic device case.

FIG. 10 illustrates a schematic side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed between a conductive bezel section and a printed circuit board of an electronic device case.

FIG. 11 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case and a tank circuit to operate global positioning system frequencies.

FIG. 12 illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case, with an example configuration of a bezel slot gap short.

FIG. 13 illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case, with an example configuration of a perimeter slot gap short.

FIG. 14 illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case, with an example configuration of another bezel slot gap short.

FIG. 15 illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case, with an example configuration of another perimeter slot gap short.

FIG. 16 illustrates an example metal stub that can be useful in tuning GPS and high band operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 17 illustrates an example integrated structural capacitor for tuning WiFi operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 18 illustrates an example integrated structural tank circuit for tuning GPS and high band cellular operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 19 illustrates an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 20 illustrates an example integrated structural tank circuit in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

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FIG. 21 illustrates an example bezel slot gap short and an example perimeter slot gap short in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 22 illustrates another example perimeter slot gap short and a radio frequency feed in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 23 illustrates an example tuning step feature on a conductive ground plane of an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

FIG. 24 illustrates another example integrated structural tank circuit in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case.

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS

The described technology provides multiple implementations of a tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case. In an implementation, a triple frequency band slot antenna design excites the characteristic modes of the metallic antenna elements in the electronic device and/or case structure. In another implementation, a five band slot antenna design is provided. Other implementations may provide more frequency bands or fewer frequency bands of operation. In an implementation, human tissue (e.g., a wearer's wrist) increases the ground plane effect and acts as a reflector at lower frequency bands to maintain the antenna performance relative to or close to the lossy tissue.

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case 100. A conductive bezel section 102 of the electronic device case 100 is connected to a conductive ground plane section 104 via one or more perimeter slot gap shorts 106. The conductive bezel section 102 has a perimeter 108, and the conductive ground plane section 104 has a perimeter 110. A separation between the conductive bezel section 102 and the conductive ground plane section 104 forms a gap including one or more slots 112 of a slot antenna configuration. The positions and radial lengths of the perimeter slot gap shorts 106 are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances. The electronic device case 100 is illustrated as including fixtures 114 for attaching a watchband, although other electronic devices may be employed, including without limitation necklaces and other wearable devices.

FIG. 2 illustrates a plan view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed 206 between a conductive bezel section 202 and a conductive ground plane section of an electronic device case 200. The conductive bezel section 202 has a perimeter 203, which is shown as circular but which may be of any shape including without limitation oval, triangular, rectangular, hexagonal, octagonal, etc. A conductive cap section 204 is surrounded by the conductive bezel section 202 and is separated from the conductive bezel section 202 by a gap. The conductive cap section 204 is also connected to the conductive bezel section 202 by two bezel slot gap shorts 208 (low band) and 210 (high band) to form bezel slots 212. The conductive bezel section 202 is also connected to the conductive ground plane section by two perimeter slot gap shorts to form perimeter slots. The positions and radial (i.e., along the perimeter) lengths of the

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bezel slot gap shorts 208 and 210 and perimeter slot gap shorts (not shown) are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed 306 between a conductive bezel section 302 and a conductive ground plane section 304 of an electronic device case 300. The conductive bezel section 302 has a perimeter 303, which is shown as circular but which may be of any shape including without limitation oval, triangular, rectangular, hexagonal, octagonal, etc. A conductive cap section 308 is surrounded by the conductive bezel section 302 and is separated from the conductive bezel section 302 by a gap. The conductive cap section 308 is also connected to the conductive bezel section 302 by two or more bezel slot gap shorts 310 (low band) and 312 (high band) to form bezel slots 314. The conductive bezel section 302 is also connected to the conductive ground plane section 304 by two or more perimeter slot gap shorts 316 (low band) and 318 (high band) to form bezel slots 320. The positions and radial lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts 310 and 312 and perimeter slot gap shorts 316 and 318 are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed 406 between a conductive bezel section 402 and a conductive ground plane section 404 of an electronic device case 400. The conductive bezel section 402 and the conductive ground plane section 404 are positioned substantially parallel to each other, forming a perimeter gap, and are connected by two or more perimeter slot gap shorts (not shown). The perimeter slot gap shorts divide the perimeter gap into two or more resonant perimeter slots 408. The positions and radial lengths of the perimeter slot gap shorts are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

A conductive cap section 410 is positioned within the perimeter of the conductive bezel section 402, separated from the conductive bezel section 402 by a bezel gap. The conductive cap section 410 is connected to the conductive bezel section 402 by two or more bezel slot gap shorts 412 to form two or more bezel slots 414. The positions and radial lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts 412 are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

As shown, the conductive cap section 410 is formed as a display panel, covered by a transparent or translucent view panel, although other conductive cap sections may be employed. Other components of the electronic device case 400, including one or more plastic housing elements, air, a battery 416 and a printed circuit board (PCB) 418, form a resonant cavity 420 depicted by dashed lines within the electronic device case 400. In FIG. 4, the resonant cavity 420 extends along the surface of the conductive ground plane section 404 and then substantially parallel to the perimeters of the conductive bezel section 402 and the conductive ground plane section 404. The radio frequency feed 406 connects the conductive bezel section 402 to the conductive ground plane section 404.

FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional top view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity 502 of an electronic device case 500. An example component, a battery 504, is shown within a conductive bezel section 506 of the electronic device case 500, forming part of the resonant cavity 502 between the component and the conductive bezel section 506.

FIG. 6 illustrates a schematic side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having

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a radio frequency feed **606** between a conductive bezel section **602** and a conductive ground plane section **604** of an electronic device case **600**. The conductive bezel section **602** and the conductive ground plane section **604** are positioned substantially parallel to each other, forming a perimeter gap, and are connected by two or more perimeter slot gap shorts (not shown). The perimeter slot gap shorts divide the perimeter gap into two or more resonant perimeter slots **608**. The positions and radial lengths of the perimeter slot gap shorts are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

A conductive cap section **610** is positioned within the perimeter of the conductive bezel section **602**, separated from the conductive bezel section **602** by a bezel gap. The conductive cap section **610** is connected to the conductive bezel section **602** by two or more bezel slot gap shorts **612** to form two or more bezel slots **614**. The positions and radial lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts **612** are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

As shown, the conductive cap section **610** is formed as a display panel, covered by a transparent or translucent view panel **630**, although other conductive cap sections may be employed. Other components of the electronic device case **600**, including one or more plastic housing elements, air, a battery **616** and a printed circuit board (PCB) **618**, form a resonant cavity **620** depicted by dashed lines within the electronic device case **600**. In FIG. 6, the resonant cavity **620** extends along the surface of the conductive ground plane section **604** and then substantially parallel to the perimeters of the conductive bezel section **602** and the conductive ground plane section **604**. The radio frequency feed **606** connects the conductive bezel section **602** to the conductive ground plane section **604**.

FIG. 7 illustrates a plan view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed **706** between a conductive bezel section **702** and a printed circuit board of an electronic device case **700**. The conductive bezel section **702** has a perimeter **703**, which is shown as circular but which may be of any shape including without limitation oval, triangular, rectangular, hexagonal, octagonal, etc. A conductive cap section **704** is surrounded by the conductive bezel section **702** and is separated from the conductive bezel section **702** by a gap. The conductive cap section **704** is also connected to the conductive bezel section **702** by two bezel slot gap shorts **708** (low band) and **710** (high band) to form bezel slots **712**. The conductive bezel section **702** is also connected to the conductive ground plane section by two perimeter slot gap shorts to form perimeter slots. The positions and radial (i.e., along the perimeter) lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts **708** and **710** and perimeter slot gap shorts (not shown) are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

FIG. 8 illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity having a radio frequency feed **806** between a conductive bezel section **802** and a printed circuit board **818** of an electronic device case **800**. A conductive cap section **809** is surrounded by the conductive bezel section **802** and is separated from the conductive bezel section **802** by a gap. The conductive cap section **809** is also connected to the conductive bezel section **802** by two bezel slot gap shorts **808** (low band) and **810** (high band) to form bezel slots. The conductive bezel section **802** is also connected to the conductive ground plane section by two perimeter slot gap shorts **820** and **822** to form perimeter slots **824**. The positions and radial (i.e., along the perimeter) lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts **808** and **810** and perimeter slot gap shorts **820** and **822** are tuned to

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frequency band resonances. The radio frequency feed **806** connects the printed circuit board **818** to the conductive bezel section **802**.

FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-sectional side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity **920** depicted by dashed lines having a radio frequency feed **906** between a conductive bezel section **902** and a printed circuit board **918** of an electronic device case **900**. The conductive bezel section **902** and the conductive ground plane section **904** are positioned substantially parallel to each other, forming a perimeter gap, and are connected by two or more perimeter slot gap shorts (not shown). The perimeter slot gap shorts **909** divide the perimeter gap into two or more resonant perimeter slots **908**. The positions and radial lengths of the perimeter slot gap shorts **909** are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

A conductive cap section **910** is positioned within the perimeter of the conductive bezel section **902**, separated from the conductive bezel section **902** by a bezel gap. The conductive cap section **910** is connected to the conductive bezel section **902** by two or more bezel slot gap shorts to form two or more bezel slots **914**. The positions and radial lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

As shown, the conductive cap section **910** is formed as a display panel, covered by a transparent or translucent view panel, although other conductive cap sections may be employed. Other components of the electronic device case **900**, including one or more plastic housing elements, air, a battery **916** and the printed circuit board (PCB) **918**, form a resonant cavity **920** within the electronic device case **900**. In FIG. 9, the resonant cavity **920** extends along the surface of the conductive ground plane section **904** and then substantially parallel to the perimeters of the conductive bezel section **902** and the conductive ground plane section **904**. The radio frequency feed **906** connects a radio circuit on the printed circuit board **918** to the conductive bezel section **902**.

FIG. 10 illustrates a schematic side view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity **1020** depicted by dashed lines having a radio frequency feed **1006** between a conductive bezel section **1002** and a printed circuit board **1018** of an electronic device case **1000**. The conductive bezel section **1002** and the conductive ground plane section **1004** are positioned substantially parallel to each other, forming a perimeter gap, and are connected by two or more perimeter slot gap shorts **1009**. The perimeter slot gap shorts **1009** divide the perimeter gap into two or more resonant perimeter slots **1008**. The positions and radial lengths of the perimeter slot gap shorts **1009** are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

A conductive cap section **1010** is positioned within the perimeter of the conductive bezel section **1002**, separated from the conductive bezel section **1002** by a bezel gap. The conductive cap section **1010** is connected to the conductive bezel section **1002** by two or more bezel slot gap shorts to form two or more bezel slots **1014**. The positions and radial lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances.

As shown, the conductive cap section **1010** is formed as a display panel, covered by a transparent or translucent view panel **1030**, although other conductive cap sections may be employed. Other components of the electronic device case **1000**, including one or more plastic housing elements, air, a battery **1016** and the printed circuit board (PCB) **1018**, form a resonant cavity **1020** within the electronic device case **1000**. In FIG. 10, the resonant cavity **1020** extends along the

surface of the conductive ground plane section **1004** and then substantially parallel to the perimeters of the conductive bezel section **1002** and the conductive ground plane section **1004**. The radio frequency feed **1006** connects a radio circuit on the printed circuit board **1018** to the conductive bezel section **1002**.

FIG. **11** illustrates a perspective view of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1100** and a tank circuit **1101** to operate global positioning system (GPS) frequencies. The tank circuit **1101** represents a parallel-LC circuit connected to the antenna, but other tank circuit configurations may also be used, such as a series-RLC circuit or series-LC circuit. A conductive cap section **1109** is surrounded by a conductive bezel section **1102** and is separated from the conductive bezel section **1102** by a gap. The conductive cap section **1109** is also connected to the conductive bezel section **1102** by a bezel slot gap short **1108** and the tank circuit **1101** to form bezel slots. The conductive bezel section **1102** is also connected to a conductive ground plane section **1104** by two perimeter slot gap shorts **1120** and **1122** to form perimeter slots. The positions and radial (i.e., along the perimeter) lengths of the bezel slot gap shorts **1108**, the tank circuit **1101**, and the perimeter slot gap shorts **1120** and **1122** are tuned to one or more frequency band resonances. The radio frequency feed **1106** connects a printed circuit board to the conductive bezel section **1102**, the conductive bezel section **1102** to the conductive ground plane section **1104**, or provides another feed configuration.

FIG. **12** illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1200**, with an example configuration of a bezel slot gap short **1202**. An axis is shown between axis ends **1204** and **1206**, with axis end **1204** positioned at about 12:00 on a clock dial and axis end **1206** positioned at about 6:00 on the clock dial, although it should be noted that the electronic device case need not include an analog clock dial or any time keeping device. The time-related reference is intended only to provide a reference to the positioning and size of certain features of the example tunable slot antenna.

The bezel slot gap short **1202** is positioned within a bezel slot gap **1208** between a conductive bezel section **1210** and a conductive cap section **1212** around the conductive cap section **1212** to provide a conductive path between the two sections **1210** and **1212** and forms boundaries of two bezel gap slots **1214** and **1216**. In one implementation, the bezel slot gap short **1202** is positioned ten degrees in the clockwise direction from the axis end **1206** with an arc length of ten degrees, although positions and lengths may be employed, such as when dimensions of the electronic device case change, frequencies of operations change, etc.

FIG. **13** illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1300**, with an example configuration of a perimeter slot gap short **1302**. An axis is shown between axis ends **1304** and **1306**, with axis end **1304** positioned at about 12:00 on a clock dial and axis end **1306** positioned at about 6:00 on the clock dial, although it should be noted that the electronic device case need not include an analog clock dial or any time keeping device. The time-related reference is intended only to provide a reference to the positioning and size of certain features of the example tunable slot antenna.

The perimeter slot gap short **1302** is positioned within a perimeter slot gap **1308** around the perimeter between a conductive bezel section **1310** and a conductive ground plane section **1312** to provide a conductive path between the two sections **1310** and **1312** and forms boundaries of two

perimeter gap slots **1314** and **1316**. In one implementation, the perimeter slot gap short **1302** is positioned ten degrees in the clockwise direction from the axis end **1306** with an arc length of ten degrees, although positions and lengths may be employed, such as when dimensions of the electronic device case change, frequencies of operations change, etc.

FIG. **14** illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1400**, with an example configuration of another bezel slot gap short **1402**. An axis is shown between axis ends **1404** and **1406**, with axis end **1404** positioned at about 12:00 on a clock dial and axis end **1406** positioned at about 6:00 on the clock dial, although it should be noted that the electronic device case need not include an analog clock dial or any time keeping device. The time-related reference is intended only to provide a reference to the positioning and size of certain features of the example tunable slot antenna.

The bezel slot gap short **1402** is positioned within a bezel slot gap **1408** between a conductive bezel section **1410** and a conductive cap section **1412** around the conductive cap section **1412** to provide a conductive path between the two sections **1410** and **1412** and forms boundaries of two bezel gap slots **1414** and **1416**. In one implementation, the bezel slot gap short **1402** is positioned 190 degrees in the clockwise direction from the axis end **1406** with an arc length of ten degrees, although positions and lengths may be employed, such as when dimensions of the electronic device case change, frequencies of operations change, etc.

FIG. **15** illustrates an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1500**, with an example configuration of another perimeter slot gap short **1502**. An axis is shown between axis ends **1504** and **1506**, with axis end **1504** positioned at about 12:00 on a clock dial and axis end **1506** positioned at about 6:00 on the clock dial, although it should be noted that the electronic device case need not include an analog clock dial or any time keeping device. The time-related reference is intended only to provide a reference to the positioning and size of certain features of the example tunable slot antenna.

The perimeter slot gap short **1502** is positioned within a perimeter slot gap **1508** around the perimeter between a conductive bezel section **1510** and a conductive ground plane section **1512** to provide a conductive path between the two sections **1510** and **1512** and forms boundaries of two perimeter gap slots **1514** and **1516**. In one implementation, the perimeter slot gap short **1502** is positioned 153 degrees in the clockwise direction from the axis end **1506** with an arc length of 53 degrees, although positions and lengths may be employed, such as when dimensions of the electronic device case change, frequencies of operations change, etc.

The example short positions and arc lengths provide high radiation efficiency in the low band cellular frequencies (~700 MHz) and the high band cellular frequencies (~1900 MHz) for the illustrated example tunable slot antennas of electronic device cases **1200**, **1100**, **1400**, and **1500**.

FIG. **16** illustrates an example metal stub **1602** that can be useful in tuning GPS and high band operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1600**. The example metal stub **1602** can provide or enhance tuning of GPS and high band cellular operation of the tunable slot antenna **1600** by designing the metal stub **1602** at one of a variety of available heights between a conductive bezel section **1604** or to a conductive ground plane section **1606** and/or by connecting the metal stub **1602** to either the conductive bezel section **1604** or to the conductive ground plane section **1606**. A

battery **1608** or other components are shown within the electronic device case, forming part of the resonant cavity.

It should be noted that FIG. **16** illustrates the metal stub **1602** as being connected to the conductive bezel section **1604** and not to the conductive ground plane section **1606** (as shown by gap **1610**), although the opposite configuration is also contemplated. In the illustrated implementation, the metal stub **1602** extends around the perimeter of the electronic device from about 3:00 to 3:00 on a clock dial, which tunes the slot antenna **1600** well in the GPS and high band cellular ranges (e.g., when employed in the design shown in FIGS. **19-22**), although other dimensions and angular orientations may be employed.

FIG. **17** illustrates an example integrated structural capacitor **1702** for tuning WiFi operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1700**. The integrated capacitor **1702** is shown as a metal stub **1708** connected to a conductive bezel section **1704** and forming a gap **1703** between the metal stub **1708** and a conductive ground plane section **1706**. The gap **1703** is filled with a dielectric and acts as the capacitive gap between the metal stub **1708** and the conductive ground plane section **1706**.

In the illustrated implementation of FIG. **17**, the gap **1703** of the capacitor element **1710** is 0.1 mm and the dielectric in the gap **1703** has a dielectric constant of 16. The metal stub **1708** of the capacitor element **1710** is 2.67 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and extends 3.9 mm from the conductive bezel section **1704**, although other dimensions may be employed in alternative implementations. The integrated capacitor **1702** can provide or enhance tuning of WiFi operation of the tunable slot antenna **1700**. It should be noted that FIG. **17** illustrates the metal stub **1708** as being connected to the conductive bezel section **1704** and not to the conductive ground plane section **1706**, although the opposite configuration is also contemplated. The integrated structural capacitor **1702** can be used in place of or in combination with a discrete capacitor between the conductive bezel section **1704** and the conductive ground plane section **1706** to assist in tuning low band WiFi operation. In one implementation, the structural capacitor **1702** is positioned at a 9:00 on a clock dial to tune the low band WiFi operation, although other dimensions and angular orientations may be employed.

FIG. **18** illustrates an example integrated structural tank circuit **1802** for tuning GPS and high band cellular operations of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1800**. The integrated structural tank circuit **1802** is formed as at least a structural portion of the electronic device case rather than being constructed from one or more discretely packaged electronic components soldered to the electronic device case. The integrated structural tank circuit **1802** includes one or more metal stubs **1808** connected to a conductive bezel section **1804** and forming a gap **1803** between the metal stub **1808** and a conductive ground plane section **1806**. The gap **1803** is filled with a dielectric and acts as the capacitive gap between the metal stub **1808** and the conductive ground plane section **1806** to form a capacitor element **1810**. The integrated tank circuit **1802** also includes a conductive inductor element **1812** formed as a thin conductive trace connected between the conductive bezel section **1804** and the conductive ground plane section **1806** and spaced a short distance (e.g., about 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm) from the conductive inductor element **1812**.

In the illustrated implementation of FIG. **18**, the integrated structural tank circuit **1802** is positioned at 1:25-1:30

on a clock dial, although other angular orientations may be employed. The integrated structural tank circuit **1802** is open at GPS bands, allowing tuning and operation at high band cellular frequency ranges.

The gap **1803** of the capacitor element **1810** is 0.1 mm and the dielectric in the gap **1803** has a dielectric constant of 16. The metal stub **1808** of the capacitor element **1810** is 2.67 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and extends 3.9 mm from the conductive bezel section **1804**, although other dimensions and dielectric constants may be employed in alternative implementations. The metal trace of the inductor element **1812** connects the conductive bezel section **1804** and the conductive ground plane **1806** at a length of 4 mm, a width of 0.25 mm and a thickness of 0.1 mm. The integrated tank circuit **1802** can provide or enhance tuning of GPS operation of the tunable slot antenna. It should be noted that FIG. **18** illustrates the metal stub **1808** as being connected to the conductive bezel section **1804** and not to the conductive ground plane section **1806**, although the opposite configuration is also contemplated. In an alternative implementation, the capacitor element **1810** and the inductor element **1812** may be employed separately, without the other element in close proximity.

FIG. **19** illustrates an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **1900**. An axis **1902** represents an axis between 12:00 (at end **1903**) and 6:00 (at end **1905**) on a clock dial.

As illustrated, a radio frequency feed **1902** is positioned at 6:00 on a clock dial to excite the slot antenna of the electronic device case **1900**. A capacitor **1904** (discrete or structurally integrated) is positioned between a conductive bezel section and a conductive cap section at about 9:00 on a clock dial to tune low band cellular (or WiFi) operation. A single conductive bezel slot gap short **1906** is positioned at about 10:00-12:15 on a clock dial. Though not shown in FIG. **19**, a perimeter slot gap short is positioned at about 10:00-12:00 on a clock dial, and another perimeter slot gap short is positioned at about 6:45-8:15 on a clock dial. In this design, the slot antenna of the electronic device case **1900** can provide five tuned bands of operation high band and low band cellular, high band and low band WiFi, and GPS operations. This alternative design implementation is further described with regard to FIGS. **20-22**. Furthermore, one or more alternative designs may employed a single perimeter slot gap short.

FIG. **20** illustrates an example integrated structural tank circuit **2002** in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **2000**. The integrated structural tank circuit **2002** forms a parallel LC circuit and includes a metal stub **2008** connected to a conductive bezel section **2004** and forming a gap **2003** between the metal stub **2008** and a conductive ground plane section **2006**. The gap **2003** is filled with a dielectric and acts as the capacitive gap between the metal stub **2008** and the conductive ground plane section **2006** to form a capacitor element **2010**. The integrated tank circuit **2002** also includes a conductive inductor element **2012** formed as a thin conductive trace connected between the conductive bezel section **2004** and the conductive ground plane section **2006** and spaced a short distance (e.g., about 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm) from the conductive inductor element **2012**. Internal components **2011** of the electronic device (e.g., a battery) reside within the electronic device case and provide a surface portion of the resonant cavity.

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In the illustrated implementation of FIG. 20, the integrated structural tank circuit **2002** is positioned at 1:20-1:25 on a clock dial, although other angular orientations may be employed. The integrated structural tank circuit **2002** is open at GPS bands, allowing tuning and operation at high band cellular frequency ranges.

The gap **2003** of the capacitor element **2010** is 0.1 mm and the dielectric in the gap **2003** has a dielectric constant of 16. The metal stub **2008** of the capacitor element **2010** is 2.67 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and extends 3.9 mm from the conductive bezel section **2004**, although other dimensions may be employed in alternative implementations. The metal trace of the inductor element **2012** connects the conductive bezel section **2004** and the conductive ground plane section **2006** at a length of 4 mm, a width of 0.25 mm and a thickness of 0.1 mm, although other dimensions may be employed in alternative implementations. The integrated tank circuit **2002** can provide or enhance tuning of GPS operation of the tunable slot antenna. It should be noted that FIG. 20 illustrates the metal stub **2008** as being connected to the conductive bezel section **2004** and not to the conductive ground plane section **2006**, although the opposite configuration is also contemplated.

FIG. 21 illustrates an example bezel slot gap short **2102** and an example perimeter slot gap short **2104** in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **2100**. The bezel slot gap short **2102** provides a short circuit across a bezel gap **2106** between a conductive cap section **2108** and a conductive bezel section **2110**. The perimeter slot gap short **2104** provides a short circuit across a perimeter slot **2112** between the conductive bezel section **2110** and a conductive ground plane section **2114**.

In the implementation illustrated in FIG. 21, the bezel slot gap short **2102** is positioned at about 10:00-12:15 on a clock dial, and the perimeter slot gap short **2104** is positioned at about 10:00-12:00 on a clock dial, and another perimeter slot gap short is positioned at about 6:45-8:15 on a clock dial, although other dimensions and angular orientations may be employed.

FIG. 22 illustrates another example perimeter slot gap short **2202** and a radio frequency feed **2204** in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **2200**. The perimeter slot gap short **2202** provides a short circuit across a perimeter slot **2206** between the conductive bezel section **2208** and a conductive ground plane section **2210**. The perimeter slot gap short **2202** is positioned at about 6:45-8:15 on a clock dial, although other dimensions and angular orientations may be employed. A bezel slot **2212** resides between a conductive cap section (not shown) and the conductive bezel section **2208**, and the perimeter slot **2206** resides between the conductive bezel section **2208** and the conductive ground plane section **2210**. The radio frequency feed **2204** connects an internal component (e.g., a PCB board) to the conductive bezel section **2208**. In an alternative implementation, the radio frequency feed **2204** can connect between the conductive bezel section **2208** and the conductive ground plane section **2210**.

FIG. 23 illustrates an example tuning step feature **2302** on a conductive ground plane section **2304** of an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **2300**. In one implementation, the tuning step feature **2302** conductive and is positioned on or integrated into the exterior surface of the conductive ground plane section **2304**, with a thickness of 0.6 mm in a low current region of the conductive ground

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plane section **2304** during low band WiFi operation. In the orientation shown (with axis end **2306** representing 12:00 on a clock dial and axis end **2308** representing 6:00 on a clock dial, the 0.6 mm step feature **2302** turns the slot antenna for low band WiFi (e.g., 2.4 GHz) operation, although other dimensions and orientations may be employed.

In an alternative implementation, the tuning step feature **2302** is formed on the printed circuit board of the internal components within the electronic device case. In this implementation, the tuning step feature **2302** resides within the ground plane resonant cavity portion.

FIG. 24 illustrates another example integrated structural tank circuit **2402** in an alternative slot antenna design of an example tunable slot antenna integrated into a resonant cavity of an electronic device case **2400**. The integrated structural tank circuit **2402** forms a serial LC circuit and includes two metal stubs **2408** and **2409** connected to a conductive bezel section **2404** and separated by a gap **2403** between the two metal stub **2408** and **2409**. The gap **2403** is filled with a dielectric and acts as the capacitive gap between the metal stubs **2408** and **2409**. The integrated tank circuit **2402** also includes a conductive inductor element **2412** formed as a thin conductive trace connected between the metal stub **2409** and the conductive ground plane section **2406**. Internal components **2411** of the electronic device (e.g., a battery) reside within the electronic device case and provide a surface portion of the resonant cavity.

In the illustrated implementation of FIG. 24, the integrated structural tank circuit **2402** is positioned at 1:20-1:25 on a clock dial, although other angular orientations may be employed. The integrated structural tank circuit **2402** is open at GPS bands, allowing tuning and operation at high band cellular frequency ranges.

The gap **2403** of the capacitor element **2410** is 0.1 mm and the dielectric in the gap **2403** has a dielectric constant of 16. The metal stub **2408** of the capacitor element **2410** is 2.67 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and extends 3.9 mm from the conductive bezel section **2404**, and the metal stub **2409** of the capacitor element **2410** is 2.67 mm wide, 1.3 mm thick, and extends from the gap **2403**, although other dimensions and dielectric constants may be employed in alternative implementations. The metal trace of the inductor element **2412** connects the metal stub **2409** and the conductive ground plane section **2406**, a width of 0.25 mm and a thickness of 0.1 mm, although other dimensions may be employed in alternative implementations. The integrated tank circuit **2402** can provide or enhance tuning of GPS operation of the tunable slot antenna **2400**. It should be noted that FIG. 24 illustrates the metal stub **2408** as being connected to the conductive bezel section **2404** and not to the conductive ground plane section **2406**, although the opposite configuration is also contemplated.

In yet another implementation, a structural tank circuit, a structural inductor, and/or a structural capacitor can span across any gap between two conductive material edges. The conductive material edges can be of the same conductive element (e.g., a slot in a conductive sheet of metal) or of different conductive elements (e.g., a slot formed by two or more conductive sheets or portions of metal).

A first example apparatus includes conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter and being positioned opposite the conductive bezel section. The conductive ground plane section is separated from the conductive bezel section by a perimeter gap at the perimeter. The first example apparatus also includes a structural tank circuit integrated with and connecting the

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conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus includes one or more components residing between the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section forming a resonant cavity including a ground plane resonant cavity portion between the one or more components and the conductive ground plane section and another resonant cavity portion between the one or more components and the perimeters of the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural tank circuit comprises a structural capacitor formed as a metal stub extending from the conductive bezel section toward the conductive ground plane section, the metal stub being separated from the conductive ground plane section by a gap filled with a dielectric.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural tank circuit comprises a structural capacitor formed as a metal stub extending from the conductive ground plane section toward the conductive bezel section, the metal stub being separated from the conductive bezel section by a gap filled with a dielectric.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural tank circuit comprises a structural inductor formed as a metal trace connecting the conductive bezel section to the conductive ground plane section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural tank circuit comprises a structural capacitor connecting the conductive bezel section to the conductive ground plane section and a structural inductor connecting the conductive bezel section to the conductive ground plane section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural tank circuit is formed as a structural portion of the electronic device case.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the apparatus directs a radio frequency feed structure connecting the printed circuit board to the conductive bezel section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus further including a single radio frequency feed structure connecting the conductive cap section to the conductive bezel section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the one or more components includes a printed circuit board and a battery.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the apparatus directs a radio frequency carrier wave away from the conductive ground plane section.

A second example apparatus includes a conductive bezel section and a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter and being positioned opposite the conductive bezel section. The conductive ground plane section is separated from the conductive bezel section by a perimeter gap at the perimeter. The second example apparatus further includes a structural capacitor integrated with and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus further including one or more components residing between the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section forming a resonant cavity including a

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ground plane resonant cavity portion between the one or more components and the conductive ground plane section and another resonant cavity portion between the one or more components and the perimeters of the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural capacitor is formed as a metal stub extending from the conductive bezel section toward the conductive ground plane section, the metal stub being separated from the conductive ground plane section by a gap filled with a dielectric.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural capacitor is formed as a metal stub extending from the conductive ground plane section toward the conductive bezel section, the metal stub being separated from the conductive bezel section by a gap filled with a dielectric.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the structural capacitor is formed as a structural portion of the electronic device case.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the one or more components includes a printed circuit board and further including a single radio frequency feed structure connecting the printed circuit board to the conductive bezel section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus further including a single radio frequency feed structure connecting the conductive cap section to the conductive bezel section.

Another example apparatus of any previous example apparatus wherein the one or more components includes a printed circuit board and a battery.

A third example apparatus includes one or more conductive elements forming a gap and a structural tank circuit integrated with the one or more conductive elements. The structural tank circuit spans across the gap.

In some implementations, structures in the antenna design may include or be supplemented with materials and/or connections having electrically variable impedance to provide a capability for tuning the antenna design for different frequency bands.

The described and contemplated implementation is a matter of choice, dependent on the performance requirements of the computer system implementing the invention. Furthermore, it should be understood that operations may be performed in any order, adding and omitting as desired, unless explicitly claimed otherwise or a specific order is inherently necessitated by the claim language.

The above specification, examples, and data provide a complete description of the structure and use of exemplary embodiments of the invention. Since many implementations of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended. Furthermore, structural features of the different embodiments may be combined in yet another implementation without departing from the recited claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device casing comprising:

a conductive bezel section;

a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter of the device casing, the conductive ground plane section being separated from the conductive bezel section by a perimeter gap at the perimeter; and

a tank circuit positioned within and connecting the conductive bezel section and the conductive ground plane section across the perimeter gap, the tank circuit

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including a conductive inductor element formed as a structural portion of the device casing.

2. The device casing of claim 1 further comprising:
one or more components residing between the conductive
bezel section and the conductive ground plane section
forming a resonant cavity including a ground plane
resonant cavity portion between the one or more com-
ponents and the conductive ground plane section and
another resonant cavity portion between the one or
more components and the perimeters of the conductive
bezel section and the conductive ground plane section.

3. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the tank circuit
comprises a structural capacitor formed as a metal stub
extending from the conductive bezel section toward the
conductive ground plane section, the metal stub being sepa-
rated from the conductive ground plane section by a gap
filled with a dielectric.

4. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the tank circuit
comprises a structural capacitor formed as a metal stub
extending from the conductive ground plane section toward
the conductive bezel section, the metal stub being separated
from the conductive bezel section by a gap filled with a
dielectric.

5. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the conductive
inductor element is formed as a metal trace connecting the
conductive bezel section to the conductive ground plane
section.

6. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the tank circuit
comprises a structural capacitor spanning at least a portion
of the perimeter gap and a structural inductor spanning at
least a portion of the perimeter gap.

7. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the tank circuit
is formed as a structural portion of an electronic device case.

8. The device casing of claim 2 wherein the one or more
components include a printed circuit board and further
comprising:

a single radio frequency feed structure connecting the
printed circuit board to the conductive bezel section.

9. The device casing of claim 1 further comprising:

a single radio frequency feed structure connecting a
conductive cap section to the conductive bezel section.

10. The device casing of claim 2 wherein the one or more
components include a printed circuit board and a battery.

11. The device casing of claim 1 wherein the apparatus
directs a radio frequency carrier wave away from the con-
ductive ground plane section.

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12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tank circuit
operates as a resonant circuit.

13. A device casing comprising:

a conductive bezel section;

a conductive ground plane section forming a perimeter of
the device casing, the conductive ground plane section
being separated from the conductive bezel section by a
perimeter gap at the perimeter; and

a capacitor positioned within and connecting the conduc-
tive bezel section and the conductive ground plane
section across the perimeter gap, the capacitor formed
as at least a structural portion of the device casing and
including a metal stub extending from one of the
conductive ground plane section and the conductive
bezel section, the metal stub being separated from the
other one of the conductive ground plane section and
the conductive bezel section by a gap filled with a
dielectric.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

one or more components residing between the conductive
bezel section and the conductive ground plane section
forming a resonant cavity including a ground plane
resonant cavity portion between the one or more com-
ponents and the conductive ground plane section and
another resonant cavity portion between the one or
more components and the perimeters of the conductive
bezel section and the conductive ground plane section.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the one or more
components include a printed circuit board and further
comprising:

a single radio frequency feed structure connecting the
printed circuit board to the conductive bezel section.

16. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a single radio frequency feed structure connecting a
conductive cap section to the conductive bezel section.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the one or more
components include a printed circuit board and a battery.

18. A device case comprising:

one or more conductive elements forming a gap;

a tank circuit integrated with the one or more conductive
elements, the tank circuit spanning across the gap and
including a conductive inductive element formed as at
least a structural portion of the device case.

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